Truncation Symbols and Wildcards

To search words that may have multiple spellings:

- Use a truncation symbol – # or ?
  - e.g. labo#r for labor or labour

To search for words that could end in a number of acceptable endings:

- Use the * symbol
  - e.g. healt* for health, healthy, healthier, healthiest

Limiters for large results

Check either the far left or far right side of the database web page to see what “limiters” are available to reduce the number of results you have retrieved.

Limiters can be:
- Years of Publication
- Full text
- Peer reviewed and Scholarly
- Gender
- Age
- Publication
- Subject
- Language
- Geography

Phrase searching

To search for a phrase or multiple words that convey a single concept, use quotation marks around the words.

- e.g. “health care assistants” “elderly care” “nursing homes”

Doing this will increase relevant searching results

Sorting results

Search results default usually to a “relevancy” listing determined by the resource you are searching.

Results can be sorted by date, author, source, title depending on the resource being used. Check to see what options are available. Sorting options are usually near the top of the result list.

Need help?

Ask library staff for assistance

- online through AskAway Live Chat
- by booking an appointment with your Health Librarian: efzalezsak@vcc.ca