Purpose

- To build on the subject-searching skills you developed in the previous session: Beyond the Reading List
- To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of your searches. To achieve this:
- To introduce you to a range of search techniques that can be used in LibrarySearch, but which have much wider applicability
Programme

- LibrarySearch’s Simple Search interface
  - “Phrase searching”
  - Truncation*
  - LibrarySearch’s default parameters: search everything!
- LibrarySearch’s Advanced Search interface
  - Subject Terms (keywords)
  - Journal article abstracts and subject terms
- Advanced search techniques using LibrarySearch’s constituent databases
  - Example database: Academic Search Premier
    - The searchable Thesaurus of Subject Terms
- Access to databases, and assistance

LibrarySearch: Simple Search

Phrase searching
Truncation
LibrarySearch: Phrase

- To improve the precision of your result set, it might be appropriate to define your search term as a **Phrase** (as distinct from a series of separate words)
- To do this, enclose each term within “quotation marks”
- The system will then retrieve only those items where the words appear next to each other in the specified order; which gives you a smaller, more relevant result set

```
<LibrarySearch>

Everything ▼ “social control” devian”

<SEARCH>
```

LibrarySearch: Truncation

- Conversely, use **Truncation** to expand the coverage of any search term
- To apply truncation, use the star (*) symbol
- For example, by entering the search term: **cultur***
  - the system will simultaneously search for the terms: **culture**; **cultures**; **cultural**; **culturale**; **culturation**; etc.

```
<LibrarySearch>

Everything ▼ “social control” devian”

<SEARCH>
```
Simple Search: Initial Result Set

**Library Search**: typically eBooks, and physical media (including print books)

**Eresources**: typically journal and magazine articles, conference papers, reports, etc.

Sort and Limit (Date, Language, Source Type, etc.) options

What’s the (potential) problem with this type of search?

Search Coverage Refinement

To concentrate on articles (from journals and conferences, etc.) and reports, choose only to search **Eresources**

Further refinement can be effected by **de-selecting** the Also search within full text option

Impact on search results

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Everything: criminality biosocial</td>
<td>1,838</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eresources (only): criminality biosocial</td>
<td>1,836</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deselect ‘…search within full text’ option: criminality biosocial</td>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Still too many? Add further words (jurisdiction/region?); Or use **Advanced Search**.
LibrarySearch: Advanced Search

Subject terms

Advanced Search: Interface

Find items that have:
- All these words:
- This exact phrase:

Don't show items that have:
- These unwanted terms:

Additional limits:
- Format type:
- Language:
- Library:

Search Targets
- Library Search
- Databases (Greenwich)

Input a string of words and / or a phrase.

Exclude words – use with extreme caution or not at all, especially when searching within full text. Why?

As appropriate, select type of resource, language and/or physical library.

We are not searching for a specific author or title, but have added three “phrase” and truncated Subject terms

Subject Terms are a list of the main concepts or themes discussed in an article
Advanced Search: Results

Our “phrase” and truncated* Subject search terms

Additional Limit parameters: date, subject, source database, etc.

Note: You still have the Sort facility, and the option to deselect the default Also search within full text parameter

Subject Terms: Focussed Searching

This is an example record from LibrarySearch. It includes citation data, an abstract and descriptive keywords (Subject Terms). Similarly structured records will also be found in the individual databases that comprise the source content of LibrarySearch.

The full list of Subject Terms associated with a specific article. (If relevant, one or more may be incorporated into your subsequent searches.)

The Abstract briefly describes the main concepts and findings of the article. Subject Terms are a summary distillation of those main concepts.
Academic Search Premier

Subject Terms

Thesaurus

Academic Search Premier: Field Limiters

Smarter searching within individual (LibrarySearch source) databases:

- Use field limiters;
- Identify subject terms from the Thesaurus

The drop-down menu of field limiters. Note especially: **Title; Subject Terms** (derived from the Thesaurus); **People** (as a subject); and **Geographic Terms**
The full list of Subject (and Geographic) Terms ascribed to this specific article

Subject Terms:
- POOR children
- GOVERNMENT policy
- POVERTY reduction
- SOCIAL mobility
- AUSTERITY (Economics)
- COALITION governments
- SOCIAL justice
- LIFE chances
  GREAT Britain — Politics & government — 2007

Geographic Terms: GREAT Britain

Some databases allow you to search the Thesaurus, which lists all available Subject Terms

Click on the Subject Terms option

Enter your search term (and select term location: Begins with; Contains)

Tick the required Subject Term(s); change the OR connector to AND; and click the Add button
Access to Databases

LibrarySearch
LibrarySearch’s constituent and other databases
Assistance

Access: University Portal / My Learning

Link to LibrarySearch; or go directly to:
http://librarysearch.gre.ac.uk

The A-Z directory of individual databases; including Academic Search Premier (a constituent of LibrarySearch)
Access: The Directory of Databases

Lists all the individual databases, across all disciplines, to which the University subscribes. Many, but not all of these, are covered by LibrarySearch.

Access: Academic Search Premier

Although you’ve selected Academic Search Premier, the system doesn’t take you directly to the database:

1. Click on the Psychology/Sociology Databases link in the menu;
2. To access the full suite of advanced search tools, click on the Title List link
Access: Academic Search Premier

3. Select Advanced Search

4. Enter your search terms, select the required field limiters and other search parameters as necessary: peer-reviewed only?; language?; search within full-text?... etc.

Assistance

For help with identifying relevant databases and constructing efficient and effective searches, please email your School librarian:

Fraser Nicolaides

nf02@gre.ac.uk

If you encounter problems accessing LibrarySearch or any of its constituent databases, especially from off campus, first consult the supplementary login instructions at:

http://libguides.gre.ac.uk/e-resources/offcampus

Otherwise, please email the technical support team:

librarysearch@gre.ac.uk