Keyword searching: improving your results

Keyword Search

Too few results?
- Try alternative or less specific keywords
- Use OR to include synonyms
- Apply truncation
- Check spelling
- Check database coverage

Too many results?
- Try alternative or more specific keywords
- Use AND to include additional concepts
- Apply phrase searching if relevant
- Apply limits (date/language/title)
- Use NOT to exclude selected words

Just right
- Is it enough? Have you covered everything?
- Save results Skim articles
- Add new keywords to mindmap/search plan

- Search for other terms or concepts
- Search other databases
- Author or institution search
- Citation search (key references)