Keyword Searching

- **Brainstorm** search terms using **Keywords** (natural language) that describe concepts/synonyms of your research topic. **Keywords** are words that you think of on your own from your knowledge of your research topic. When you perform **keyword searches**, library catalogs and periodical databases look for your search terms in any field (Title, Author, Subject, and Abstract) of the book or article record.

- Think about **multiple endings** (work, working, worker), **alternative spellings** (labor/labour), and **abbreviations** (g.p.a./grade point average).

- The **success** of your **keyword search** depends upon the **keywords** you use and how you combine them. A **Boolean search** allows you to connect search terms (concepts/synonyms) using the words **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT**.

- **AND** tells the database to combine concepts hypertension AND sucrose which will **narrow** your search.

- **OR** tells the database to look for **synonyms** (hypertension OR blood pressure) which will **broaden** your search. Enclose synonyms in parenthesis.

- **NOT** tells the database the word you do not want in your results (fructose NOT sugar) which will **narrow** your search. Enclose keywords in parenthesis.

- **Complex Search Statement** using **AND** and **OR** (hypertension or blood pressure) **AND** (sucrose or fructose)