

**In order to save time, and to conduct a search that is as comprehensive as possible, you may want to try some of these tips and tricks.**

- **Use synonyms** – Keyword searching will only try to find articles with the exact word that you put in the search box. There may be other ways to describe what you want. For example, instead of searching for high blood pressure, try high blood pressure or hypertension or hbp or etc.
- **Truncate** – This can be a powerful search strategy. In Ovid, the symbol is \*. For example, diagnos\$ will bring up articles with diagnosis, diagnosing, diagnostic, diagnostics, etc.
- **Spelling** – Some articles may be from England. Try using British spelling alternatives. For instance, pediatrics or paediatrics. For more British spellings, you may want to look at this site <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwesl/egw/jones/differences.htm>.
- **Use fields** – Many databases allow you to search in different fields. One way to limit results to more relevant items is to look for keywords in the abstract or title of an article. You can do this in Ovid by adding [.ab,ti] (without the brackets) to your search term. For example: diagnos\*.ab, ti

**Keep in mind that you do have access to professional librarians who are happy to assist with or conduct literature searches for you, as well.**

<http://www.ecu.edu/laupuslibrary/contact.cfm>