Searching for material by subject
The research cycle

1. Decide which sources to use (e.g. databases, search engines etc.)
2. Develop your search strategy (search terms, combinations etc.)
3. Review your search results
4. Amend your search strategy and / or choose different sources
5. Use the bibliography of relevant items to identify other useful papers and search terms
Searching by subject

An example:

Human rights of child asylum seekers
Searching by subject

An example:

Human rights of child asylum seekers
Searching by subject

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main concept</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concept 1</td>
<td>Asylum seekers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept 2</td>
<td>Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept 3</td>
<td>Human rights</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Asylum seekers AND child AND human rights
Searching by subject

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>Main concept</th>
<th>Alternative 1</th>
<th>Alternative 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asylum seekers</td>
<td>OR Refugees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept 2</td>
<td>Child</td>
<td>OR Minor</td>
<td>OR Juvenile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept 3</td>
<td>Human rights</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Assylum seekers OR refugees) AND (child OR minor OR juvenile) AND human rights
Searching by subject

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>Main concept</th>
<th>Alternative 1</th>
<th>Alternative 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Asylum seeker*”</td>
<td>OR Refugee*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept 2</td>
<td>Child*</td>
<td>OR Minor?</td>
<td>OR Juvenile*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept 3</td>
<td>“Human rights”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(“Asylum seeker*” OR refugee*) AND (child* OR minor? OR juvenile*) AND “human rights”
My search string

(“Asylum seeker*” OR refugee*) AND (child* OR minor? OR juvenile*) AND “human rights”
My search string

"asylum seeker*" OR refugee*

And  
child* OR minor? OR juvenile*

And  
"human rights"
1. **LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS IN BORDERLAND DETENTION CENTERS IN TEXAS**
   By: Wallace, Melissa; Hernandez, Carlos Ivan
   *REVISTA DE LENGUA* I DRET-JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE AND LAW* Issue: 68 Pages: 143-156 Published: DEC 2017*
   [Free Full Text from Publisher] [View Abstract]

2. **Do resettlement variables predict psychiatric treatment outcomes in a sample of asylum-seeking survivors of torture?**
   By: Whitsett, David; Sherman, Martin F.
   *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SOCIAL PSYCHIATRY* Volume: 63 Issue: 3 Pages: 674-685 Published: DEC 2017*
   [View Abstract]

3. **Critical social work with unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people: Restoring hope, agency and meaning for the client and worker**
   By: Nelson, Deborah; Price, Elizabeth; Zubrzycki, Joanna
   *INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK* Volume: 60 Issue: 3 Pages: 601-613 Published: MAY 2017*
   [Free Full Text from Publisher] [View Abstract]

4. **Human Rights Education: Refugees and Asylum Seekers’ Right to Education**
   By: Ben David-Hadar, Iris
   *GLOBALISATION, HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND REFORMS* Book Series: Globalisation Comparative Education and Policy Research Volume: 17 Pages: 221-237 Published: 2017*
   [View Abstract]

Build your own search string
## Which sources to use?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOLARLY SEARCH ENGINES</th>
<th>BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES (ABSTRACTS/INDEXES)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e.g. Google Scholar and SOLO Articles or Search Everything</td>
<td>Often dedicated to a particular subject area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy search across tens of thousands of items</td>
<td>Search across key sources in the discipline - quality is assured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage unclear</td>
<td>Search brief details (author, article title, subject keywords, abstract)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality varies</td>
<td>Should return a smaller number of more relevant results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearly always returns too many results</td>
<td>Often include specialist search options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Especially good for articles, conference papers ... sometimes less good for books, policy documents, reports</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finding bibliographic databases

Databases A-Z
(https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/az.php)
- A-Z listing all databases
- Choose **Subject** tab
Finding bibliographic databases

Look for database type “Abstracts/Indexes”
Subject searching for journal articles in SOLO

SOLO Articles or Search Everything great for searching for **specific items** – though it doesn’t include all articles available online or those only available in print

Articles or Search Everything can be used for subject searching at undergraduate level... at postgraduate level use a bibliographic database.
Subject searching for books in SOLO

Index/Abstract services sometimes (but not always) cover books

SOLO is a **good source** for subject searching for books

Use your normal search strategy but remember books often cover more general topics than articles so you may need to use broader search terms.

NB, make sure you are searching **All Libraries/Collections** and **NOT** Search Everything – otherwise you will get too many results!
Finding items from ‘one good record’

Once you have found relevant items – use details to find “subject headings”

You can then search using the subject heading OR browse the subject list on SOLO.
Sciences / Medicine
- Scopus
- Web of Science
- Find a database using Databases A-Z

Social Science subjects
- Proquest
- Web of Science
- SOLO subject searching (for books)
- Find a database using Databases A-Z

Humanities subjects
- EBSCO
- SOLO subject searching (for books)
- Web of Science
- Find a database using Databases A-Z

History
- Historical Abstracts
- SOLO subject searching (for books)
- Web of Science
- Find a database using Databases A-Z

English Literature / Modern Languages and Literature / Linguistics
- MLA
- SOLO subject searching (for books)
- Find a database using Databases A-Z