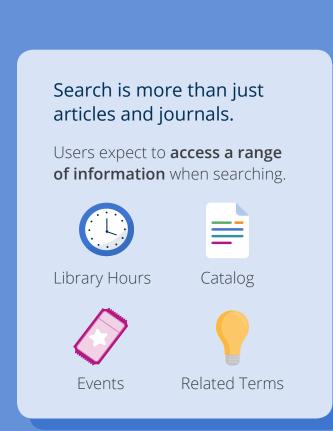# What to Know About Search Queries

The starting (and potential ending) point of a user's research is with their initial query of your library's resources. How they search and build connections is a make or break in resource usage and library expectations.

Search

Search is more than just articles and journals.

Users expect to **access a range of information** when searching.

Library Hours

Catalog

Events

Related Terms

Different people. Different query strategies.

Factors like experience, **verbal** ability and **cognitive** ability all influence search queries.
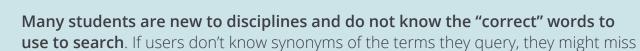
"Hey library, I have a question for you".

Queries can often resemble questions asked at the reference desk with the same expectation of the "human" expertise in the search results.

By 2021, there will be almost as many **voice-activated assistants** on the planet as people. This could **influence the way in which people search** query in your library – via natural language querying.

Results

Concept Recognition

Many students are new to disciplines and do not know the "correct" words to use to search. If users don't know synonyms of the terms they query, they might miss important content or retrieve results that are not contextually relevant to their discipline.

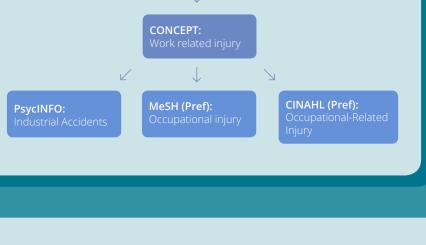For example Taxonomy has a different meaning in English vs. Library Sciences vs. e-Commerce.

VS.

VS.

Enhanced Subject Precision

Query expansion takes an **amateur search and translates it into the appropriate academic terminology** so they do not miss out on relevant results.

workplace injury

CONCEPT:
Work related injury

PsycINFO:
Industrial Accidents

MeSH (Pref):
Occupational injury

CINAHL (Pref):
Occupational-Related Injury

Accurate Indexing is a Craft

EBSCO's search technology utilizes subject experts to **handcraft a search experience to build better connections between the user and content.**

This includes writing abstracts and creating subject headings and controlled vocabularies for accurate indexing and to deliver the most relevant results.

Sources

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Koopman, B., Zuccon, G. and Bruza, P. (2017) 'What makes an effective clinical query and querier?', Journal of the Association for Information Science & Technology, 68(11), pp. 2557–2571. doi: 10.1002/asi.23959.