THE COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

ACCESS THE COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PORTAL TO BEGIN

The easiest way to find the community scholars portal is to enter "Community Scholar" into the library search bar. From the landing page, select "**Find articles+ books**" in the left-hand menu.

Sign into the community scholars portal with the barcode and password you were given upon joining the program. If you have forgotten your barcode or password, contact your librarian.

Tip: bookmark the link for easy access: https://login.ezproxy2.lib.sfu.ca/login

SEARCH TIPS

BRAINSTORMING KEYWORDS

Write out everything you're interested in about your search. What do you know, what don't you know? Database searches use **keywords** to structure your search. Your initial keywords are often the most important words in your question.

Example: How common is food insecurity for seniors
Keywords: Seniors, food security, prevalence

BUILD A SEARCH WITH AND & OR

Boolean operators **AND** & **OR** are used to join keywords in database searching. Capitalization matters!

Use **AND** to narrow, or focus, the search. **AND** generally finds **fewer, more specific** papers because your search must find all terms joined with **AND** in the results.

Example: **cartoons AND violence AND children**

Use **OR** to expand your search results using related words and concepts you've come up with. **OR** generally finds **more, less specific** papers because your search can include one or any of the terms joined with **OR**.

Example: (Violence **OR** aggression **OR** anger)

RELATED TERMS

Unlike a google search, databases only look for the keywords you enter as you entered them. Brainstorm related words to expand your search!

Example: (Seniors OR Elderly)

ALTERNATIVE SPELLINGS

Consider different spellings and pluralization. You can use **truncation** (*) to search for similar words without typing them all out!

Example: (Colour OR Color)
Example: *violen** will search for *violence, violent, violently,* etc.

MORE SEARCH TIPS

*Use quotation marks to search for an **exact phrase**

Example: *"cartoon violence"*

*Look for a *Peer Reviewed* or *Scholarly Journals* search option; Most database will have a check box to limit your search to these types of results!

*Look for an option to restrict the **date range** to find the most current information.