

Dictionary

Boolean operators	Boolean operators, AND, OR and NOT, are used to combine or exclude entities, e.g. words or phrases, in a search.
Citation	A citation is a reference to a published or unpublished source. A citation is an abbreviated alphanumeric expression embedded in the body of an intellectual work that denotes an entry in the bibliographic references section of the work. The purpose of the citation is to acknowledge the relevance of the works of others. Generally the combination of both the in-text citation and the bibliographic entry constitutes what is commonly thought of as a citation.
Classification system	Classification is used to organize or categorize things. In a library catalogue or in a database, classification systems are used to group together items or documents according to e.g. subject matter. Some classification systems (e.g. Dewey Decimal Classification system, DDC) apply numbers to represent the order or hierarchy of the topics covered and these are typically arranged in tree structures. E.g.: 551 Geology, hydrology, meteorology 551.6 Climatology and weather 551.601 Philosophy and theory 551.609 Historical, geographic, persons treatment
Conference proceedings	Proceedings are the collection of academic papers published in the context of an academic conference.
Field search	When you limit your search to a specific part of the bibliographic reference - e.g. the title, author name, ISBN-number or keyword. As opposed to searching across all sections of the reference (or indeed the entire full-text).
Homonyms	Words that have the same pronunciation and spelling but have different meanings.
Masking or wildcard-search	Masking or wildcard-search is a search technique that allows you to substitute one or more characters inside a search term, thereby retrieving different spelling variations in one search. A wildcard typically consists of signs such as ? or #. Searching for <i>colo?r</i> will retrieve documents containing both <i>color</i> and <i>colour</i> .
Metadata	Data that provides context or additional information about other data, i.e. information about title, author, subject or DOI.
Open access	Open access (OA) means free access to scientific literature.

Peer reviewed article	An article that has undergone peer-review has been scrutinized by scholars who are experts in the same subject field as the author (i.e. "peers"). These experts evaluate the quality and relevance of the article and if they endorse it, the article may be published.
Postprint	A post-print article is a journal article that has been peer-reviewed. It is at this stage ready to be published in a scientific journal, but is without journal layout.
Preprint	A pre-print article an article in manuscript form. It has not yet been peer-reviewed or indeed accepted for publication.
Reports	Reports typically provide detailed analyses of topics or issues. Reports are often commissioned by someone e.g. a public authority, an organization or a company and are thus written with a particular audience in mind. Moreover, reports tend to provide answers or solutions to specific questions or problems and often include a list of recommendations.
Synonyms	Words that have identical or very similar meanings - e.g. car/vehicle/automobile.
Textbooks	Books that introduce its readers to a particular topic or field of research. Many textbooks are used as teaching resources and as such may support certain learning objectives and may even be perceived as standard works within a given field of study.
Thesaurus	A thesaurus is a reference work that lists words grouped together according to similarity of meaning, including broader, narrower and related terms. A hierarchy of subject headings.
Thesis	A thesis is a document submitted in support of candidature for an academic degree presenting the author's research and findings.
Truncation	Truncation is a search technique that broadens the search by incorporating various word endings and spelling varieties. When you truncate, you search for the shortest form of a word and add a truncation sign – e.g. *. Searching for comput* - will retrieve documents that contain variations such as: compute, computer, computers, computing and computational.