

Title: My results are all over the map, any other ideas?

Slide Description	Transcript
Title Slide	Have you ever had a search where your results just didn't seem to make sense based on what you searched.
Academic Search Premiere Results page for social networks	For instance, my search for social networks has yielded a number of results not relevant to my paper regarding social networks such as Facebook or MySpace. One way to resolve this issue is to use the subject terms that have been assigned to an article in order to describe what an article is mostly about. Depending on which database you are in you might see a link for descriptors, subject terms, or a thesaurus that will assist you in more efficiently searching the database. For Academic Search Premiere we will use the Subject Terms link.
Academic Search Premiere Subject Terms Search Page	In the second search box I type in social networks, change the radio button underneath the box to relevancy ranked, and click on the browse button.
Academic Search Premiere Subject Terms Results Page	The most relevant subject terms are then provided in a list. If I click on social networks...
Academic Search Premiere Social Network Thesaurus Page	I will find a description of what the term means, known as a scope note, terms with a broader scope than the original term, terms with a narrower scope than the original term, terms related to the original term, and synonyms that this term is used for. Since the scope note implies a term that encompasses more social networks than I'm interested in, I can take a look at the narrower terms and will discover that Online Social Networks is an option. If I click the check box next to this option, I can use the add button to include this in my search. Upon clicking the search button
Academic Search Premiere results page	I get 3,800 results, from the 19,100 I originally received. This is a good opportunity to consider what specifically about social networking I want to know. I want to learn more about how social networking can lead to identify theft. If I go back to the Subject Terms page...
Academic Search Premiere Thesaurus Page	I can find Identity theft and add it to my search with the AND option. After clicking the search button, I have narrowed my results down to 17. As you can see knowing how to find subject terms is useful in getting fewer and more precise results. Therefore it is useful to know how to access subject terms in other databases.
Academic OneFile Advanced Search screen	In Gale databases, such as InfoTrac, you can access subject terms either through the browse subjects menu item or you can select the subject drop down option which will allow you to browse the possible subject terms.
ABI Inform Complete Advanced Search screen	Just like Gale databases, ProQuest databases allow you to select the subject drop down option which will allow you to lookup the possible subject terms.