

Title: I tried a basic search and got too few results. Now what do I do?

Slide Description	Transcript
Title Slide	Are you receiving only a few results or no results at all from a basic search?
Blank Academic Search Premier advanced search screen	For instance, if I was researching international responses to narcotics during the 20 th century, I might conduct a search for “League of Nations” and narcotics. Note that I used the quotation marks around League of Nations to tell the database I am searching for those words as a phrase.
Academic Search Premier results page from the search conducted	Upon searching I notice I only got six results. One way to increase my results is to consider words with similar meanings to narcotics, such as a specific type of narcotic like opium. If I add the word opium to my search with the word OR, I will get results that mention narcotics and/or opium.
Venn diagram illustrating the result of an OR search	To put it another way, if all of the articles that discuss narcotics and the League of Nations are represented by the circle on the left and all of the articles that discuss opium and the League of Nations are represented by the circle on the right; then I want articles from both circles. While conducting a search, I would use the word OR either in the search box or to the left of the search box to signify my intent to get both results.
Academic Search Premier results page from the search conducted earlier	Since I only got ten more results, I might want to continue to expand my results list. Another way to do this is to consider other topics related to one of my search terms. Since the League of Nations is only one of the international organizations that addressed narcotics trade in the 20 th century, I might consider adding other organizations to my search, such as the United Nations. Again I would use the OR option to signify my intent to gather articles that cover the United Nations and/or the League of Nations.
Academic Search Premier results page from the search just conducted	Upon searching, I notice I have drastically increased my results. While I still have to fine tune my search a little more, at least I have more options for searching.