Database Search Tips

- Combine search terms to narrow (NOT, AND) or broaden (OR) results
- Nest search terms using parentheses to be more specific: caregivers AND (teleomusicality OR protomusicality)
- Use quotes to search for an exact phrase: “music cognition”
- If you don’t use AND, OR, or NOT when searching multiple terms, AND is usually assumed
- Databases have many different ways to search for variants on a term. One trick that works in many databases is using an asterisk: cognit* (will find cognitive, cognition, etc.)

Narrowing Search Results

Web of Science
- Using quotes is especially helpful in this database
- Try also, ‘Search within results’ feature
- See “refine results” on the left to limit by date, publication type, etc.

PsycINFO
- See advanced search: narrow by methodology, population or age group studied, etc.
- Refine by subject using “refine results” on the left
- See “refine results” on the left to limit by date, publication type, etc.

ERIC
- See advanced search: narrow by educational level, intended audience, etc.
- See “refine results” on the left to limit by date, publication type, etc.