## Remedies and reasons why you are finding few or no hits



- using "exact phrase" search may be too limiting ("aesthetic surgery" you may have missed "aesthetic facial surgery" or "aesthetic and reconstructive surgery")
   remedy: omit the inverted commas "...." or use proximity instead (aesthetic w/4 surgery)
- you may have missed common synonyms
   remedy: scan your results; use synonym finder (thesaurus.com, answers.com, synonym-finder, roget. Databases such as ERIC have their own thesauri.
- you may have made spelling mistakes
  remedy: check interim results & expected yields to find the bad guy
- relevant results may contain variations in spelling and word form (polarisation polarization; behaviour behavior)
  remedy: Use proper wildcards and truncation or use masking to include several
  - **remedy:** Use proper wildcards and truncation or use masking to include several forms of the word (for example 'wom?n' to obtain 'woman' and 'women')
- you find articles but they are not subject specific enough remedy:

make sure you are using the right database for this specific topic. Consult a <u>Subject Guide</u> for your specific subject to see which databases are recommended by your faculty librarian



Quick search is the default on sunsearch and does not include all the subject-specific databases. Select articles and then the drop-down menu to select a subject-specific collection

