



Reasons and remedies when you find too much information

- not sufficiently specific search term(s) have been used
remedy: try to replace the bad guys by narrower ones.
- documents contain (too) much searchable text (too long abstracts or full-text searchable articles)
remedy: limit search to title / keywords / (abstract fields)
- query insufficiently specified
remedy: add a missing concept / building block (AND-relation)
- false coordination between search terms in the document
remedy: use exact phrase or proximity operator (instead of AND)
- Sort the list to obtain a better overview. Depending on the database, you can sort on, for example, publication date, author, title, document type, relevance.
- Limit the number of hits by reducing the time span or selecting only one language or selecting only specific types of publication or journals eg. peer reviewed, industry, or popular science journals
- make sure you are using the right database for this specific topic. Consult a [Subject Guide](#) for your specific subject to see which databases are recommended by your faculty librarian