

# LIBRARY

## Handout Video SLA 2: Expanding Search Terms

When thinking up search terms, you start by subdividing your question into separate question elements. Then you then think up search terms for each of these question elements. You have already learned to think of:

- synonyms
- specialist terms
- translations
- abbreviations
- hyponyms

However, you can always expand your collection of search terms even more:

- Some words can be spelled different ways, such as organization: you can use an s or a z.
- It is also a good idea to search using different conjugations of the same verb, such as learn and learned.
- Do not forget compound nouns such as teaching methods.
- Finally, you can use antonyms to search as well, these are words with an opposite meaning. If you are searching for information on safety, you will probably find information in which the word unsafety occurs.

You can also find new search terms based on what you have already found. Suppose you were searching for information about education and games, and came across a useful article.

- If you read through the article, you will come across many new words or combinations of words which you can also use as search terms.
- Articles in databases are often provided with a list of subject headings. See whether they contain any usable search terms.
- In library catalogues the description of books or articles often include various subject headings as well.

Check whether these contain any suitable words which you can use for searching.

Basically, use the words you find in the articles and the provided keywords. This will help you quickly find additional search terms.