Refining Your Search in Google and EBSCOhost

When you conduct a search in Google, your initial search will produce far more results than you could ever analyze in any in-depth manner. When searching “NCAA policies” you receive over nine MILLION results, most of which have no relevance to the search terms whatsoever.

The first place to start when refining your search in Google is the drop-down search bar. It will give you options of what people have been searching, and more detailed search terms.

You might even get a completely different search term based on Google’s understanding of what you are looking for vs. what is in its database. Sometimes it is good to follow these.

There is another useful tool in Google called Advanced Search. You can find it on the far right side of your screen, at the same level as the search bar.

This tool will allow you to refine or limit your search to certain words, certain types of websites or products, time limits, even reading levels. (See reverse side for what that page looks like. Notice it tells you exactly what you can do with each search option.)
Student Research Center is very similar to search. If you go into the EBSCOhost databases (search.ebscohost.com UN: carrollstudent PW: lions) and select this option, you will arrive at this search page.

Note that you can search one term (and use your Boolean AND/OR/NOT phrases), and select the type of resource you would like to search for. You can also search by topic and refine your search by date (just below this box).

Once you have begun your search, you can change the order that has been provided. It defaults at most recent, but it might be better to change to most relevant.