How can I get better search results?

- Have a look through the search tips below for guidance and ideas.
- If you need more help, call into the Enquiry Point between 11am and 3pm weekdays, or make an appointment to see your Liaison Librarian.

Too many results?

- If you are searching for a phrase, use inverted commas, e.g. “British cinema”.
- Use the Refinements option to narrow down your results:

```
Refinements

Sublocation (restriction)
- EBOOKS - Electronic Books (68)
- JOURNALS - Journals (1)
- MAINSTOCK - Main Stock (131)
- MULTIMEDIA - Multimedia Film & TV (20)

Material type (restriction)
- ELECTRONIC - Electronic access (68)
- Non-circulating (4)
- One week loan (18)
- Overnight loan (17)
- Two day loan (1)
- Two week loan (112)

Language (restriction)
- English (219)
- Italian (1)

Publication year (restriction)
- 2010 - 2014 (25)
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- You can refine your search results by location/type of item, loan period, language and year of publication, as shown above, but you can also refine by Author and Subject.
- The Subject refinement list gives you the subject headings in the catalogue records listed in your search results, e.g. a search for “British cinema” gives you a list of Subject refinements that look like this:

```
Subject
- British Film Institute (46)
- Electronic books (23)
- ebrary, Inc. (23)
- Cinema and society series (17)
- Cinema and society (11)
- Films -- Great Britain -- History (11)
- British popular cinema (10)
- Cinema -- Great Britain -- History (10)
- Feature films -- Russia -- Videos (10)
- Film Industry -- Great Britain -- History (9)
- ... more ...
```
• You can click on these headings to look at the books.
• This can help you to get to relevant search results more quickly, looking at subject headings can also help you think about and find more search terms for your topic.

Too few results?

• Your search terms may be too specific and you may need to think more broadly.
• For example, if you are searching for books on a particular television series and you get no results, take a step back. Try searching using terms like, Television United States 21st century.
• If you find one or two books that look good, go into the catalogue record, look at the subject headings used and click on the heading to find other books with the same headings.
• If the catalogue records has more information about the book in the Extended record data section, have a look at this – you may get more ideas for other search terms to try, e.g.
Think about your keywords:

You will get results based on exactly the words that you put into any search engine. Think about the words that you have used:

- **Synonyms**: are there other words that mean the same thing that you could try, e.g. cinema or film or motion picture
- **Spelling**: organization or organisation
- **Abbreviations**: TV or Television, HR or Human Resources