Search Tips for the USask Library Catalogue / USearch:

Boolean Operators:

To Search for an Exact Phrase:
- use quotation marks: “Cambrian explosion”
- the search will find these words next to each other in this sequence

To Search for Variations of a Word (also called “truncation”):
- use the * symbol: fossil*
- this search will find: fossil, fossils, fossilization, etc

To Separate Search Commands into Logical Sequence (Nesting):
- use parentheses: (flower* OR Angiosperm*) AND evolution

Subject Searches vs. Word Searches:

- Subject searches are the most accurate way to search... BUT it can be difficult to guess the correct “Subject Heading” for your concepts
- TIP: It is best to start with a Word search (using some of the tips above!), find a useful book, then search by the Subject Heading assigned to it to find more on the same topic
- In the catalogue record for the book you’ll see a “Subject” field – click on the hyperlinked words (these are the Subject Headings) to do a Subject search
- See the next page for an example of a Subject Heading in USearch
Subject Headings for this book:

Angiosperms -- Morphology
Flowers – Evolution