If you’re having a hard time finding information on your topic, try brainstorming

1) Take your topic and think of as many terms that are relevant or mean the same thing.

Here is some initial brainstorming (I know you can come up with more):

- **Storage media**: disks, storage area network (SAN), solid-state storage, solid-state drive, backup tape, magnetic storage, optical storage
- **Disaster recovery**: data, data archiving, archives, data retention, remote archive, long-term storage, remote storage
- **Cloud computing**: cloud storage, cloud-based storage, remote archive, online storage
- **Mobile devices**: cell phones, smart phones, tablets, iPads, iPhones, e-readers

2) Go to the selected database’s Advanced Search screen. In the advanced search, each row stands for a different concept. You may want to enter all of your search terms in the same search box, or you may want to use the main concept, and add additional concepts in the 2nd search box. When building your search string, the word OR goes between each keyword – this tells the database pick up this OR this word, it doesn’t matter, they are both relevant.

**Example 1: All keywords mean similar thing and should be in 1 search box:**

**Note:** the quote marks tell the database that the keywords have to be searched exactly as displayed between the quotes. This works in most databases, including Google, and helps you get more specific results.

“Cloud computing” or “cloud storage” or “cloud-based storage” or “remote storage” or “remote archive” or “online storage”

**Example 2: Retain main concept and add other keywords:**

Search box 1:

“Disaster recovery”

Search box 2:

Data or “data archiving” or archives or “data retention” or “remote archive” or “remote archives” or “long-term storage” or “remote storage”

3) You’re now ready to run your Advanced Search. See the video tutorials to see how to apply the brainstorming search strategy.