Practice search for Proquest

Print this example of a search strategy and follow the instructions for a search in the ProQuest database. Take careful note of the technique and tools that you use to refine the search.

- In the ProQuest database go to ‘Advanced search’
- Enter the keyword "wound care" and choose abstract for the first search box type (click on the drop down box at the far right to see options)

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Advanced Search
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- Click 'search'
- Your search result retrieves around 605,500 'hits' or retrieved articles.
- Click on Modify search

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Suggested subjects: Hide ∨
- Wound Healing ∨ Wound Healing AND Pressure Ulcer ∨ Wound Healing AND Bandages ∨ Wound Healing AND Injuries
- Wound Healing AND Skin Care ∨ Wound Healing AND Middle Aged ∨ Care ∨ Care AND Older people ∨ Care AND Dogs
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- In the second search box enter a second keyword 'healing' but this time look for it in the 'subject headings' field (again use the drop down box on the far right) - click search
- Your search result is reduced to around 15075 'hits' or retrieved articles
- Modify your search and in the third search box refine your search once more by adding 'nursing' in the 'subject headings' field
- Click search and your search result is reduced to around 390 ‘hits’ or articles
- Narrow your search by using the box on the right to set limits. Use the boxes to limit your search to only articles that are full text and peer reviewed/scholarly.
- After selecting these options you should have approx. 40 'hits' or retrieved articles.
- As you often need articles published in the last 5 years use the Publication date to refine your search and find only those published since January 2010. Use the sliders on the date chart to select the date or enter a date range and click the update button.

Your search result is again reduced and more specific to your needs, the 'hits' or retrieved articles are now around 12 'hits' or retrieved articles.