Come Visit Us!

For further research assistance access the Wahlstrom Library website via the myUB Portal.

Ask a Librarian via Chat: Available when the Library is open through the Library website.

E-mail a Librarian: reference@bridgeport.edu

Call a Librarian: 203-576-4747

Walk-ins welcome, no appointment needed!
Subject Terms: What they are and why they help with research

Subject Terms (also called Controlled Vocabulary) are lists of index terms that databases use to define and organize the content they provide access to.

Identifying Subject Terms related to your research topic can make locating sources quicker and easier. Think of it as using the labels on folders in file cabinet.

Most databases provide a link to their Subject Terms on their homepage.

Below is an example of what Subject Terms look like in Academic Search Premier. Again, it should be emphasized that Subject Terms can be found in most databases. You do **not** need to use Academic Search Premier exclusively to utilize Subject Terms.

Image #1 shows where the link to Academic Search Premier’s Subject Terms can be located. The purple ribbon at the top should be the same on every page, so at any time in the research process you can click on ‘Subject Terms’ to be brought to their list of terms.

Image #2 is an example of what a list of Subject Terms looks like. The search is for ‘Revolutionary War’, and we are brought to that point in the alphabetical list. We are able to see terms related to the Revolutionary War, as well as broader terms and alphabetically close terms. Clicking on the links will search for any article with that specific Subject Term.