Capturing word variations

When you search Google, it usually finds your keywords as well as variations of your keywords.

For example, Google searches for the word environmental, but also finds environment.

In contrast, research databases may only find exact matches to the words you enter into your search.

Here, only articles containing the word environmental are found.

To capture variations of your keywords, use ‘truncation.’

To truncate, keep the main part of the word and replace the end with an asterisk.

This will retrieve all variations of your keyword, including instances of a word in both singular and plural, or with other common word endings.

Books and articles containing any variation of that word will be found for you.

Thanks for listening. Please explore our other Advanced Searching tutorials for more tips.