

Transcript: Searching UNB WorldCat Using Subject Headings

In this video, you will learn how to:

- search in UNB WorldCat using subject headings.

To get the best results from your search, we recommend that you use both keywords and subject headings. More specifically, start with a keyword search that will typically lead to a few relevant sources. Then, use the subject headings assigned to those sources to get more precise search results.

Subject headings are words or phrases used by a database to describe a given topic and to group together relevant sources. Similar to hashtags in social media, subject headings enable you to retrieve more precise search results on a specific topic.

As an example, here is a keyword search for **transgender mental health**. The very top resource looks quite relevant, based on title alone, but the other search results are not particularly useful. This is a perfect scenario where subject headings can improve your search results.

Go into the record for the book, *Transgender Mental Health*, select the **Description** option, and scroll down to **Subjects**. You can select any of the hyperlinked subjects but I'm going to click on the top one.

Our new subject search, **su:Transgender people Mental health**, leads to far better results.

Let's try this method again by going into the record for *Affirmative counseling and Psychological Practice with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Clients*. Go into the **Description** option. The second item down in the list of **Subjects** is **Transgender people Counseling of**. This particular subject search brings up relevant articles in addition to books.

Subject headings are useful search tools in many other databases.

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If you have any questions, talk to us via the online chat on the library's website.