1. Subject Headings and Thesauri
   Last updated August 19, 2013
2. Many library databases organize materials according to subject. Each item added to the database is assigned subject headings from a predetermined list, also known as a controlled vocabulary or thesaurus.
   Library of Congress Subject Headings
   To perform more precise searches, it helps to know the subject headings used for your topic.

   Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)
   ERIC Descriptors
   Not all databases use the same list of subject headings.

3. Look for a link to the list of subject headings used by the database.
4. Depending on the database, the list of subject headings may be called a subject guide, or a thesaurus, or subject terms, or they may use just an acronym (MeSH = Medical Subject Headings).
5. You can browse the list of subject headings to find search terms for your topic.
6. Click the Subject Terms link
7. Enter your topic in the Browse box
8. Click the Browse button
9. You are not searching the database yet.
10. Instead you are searching the list of subject headings to find the best search terms for your topic.
11. Click the subject heading MARKETING
12. Notice the many subject headings that start with marketing.
13. By going further into the list of subject headings, we can view scope notes, broader terms, narrower terms, related terms, and view which topics this subject heading applies to.
14. Using the thesaurus is a great way to find synonymous terms for your topic. It can help you focus your research.
15. If you search using the subject headings used by the database, you will get more precise results and spend less time searching for what you need!
16. Contact the Regis Library for additional assistance.
17. END