How to search in Scopus

1. Define your main concepts and terms

   Topic: Financial statements and crimes

   **CONCEPT 1 + synonyms, close words etc.**
   - financial statements
   **AND**
   **CONCEPT 2 + synonyms, close words etc.**
   - crime, crimes, criminal
   **OR**
   - illegal, illegality
   **OR**
   - fraud

2. Create search string

   Topic: Financial statements and crimes
   Search string: “financial statements” AND (crim* OR illegal* OR fraud)

   **NOTE!**
   * = truncation (for example, crim* searches words like crime, crimes, criminal; illegal* searches illegal, illegality etc.
   “” = phrase search (searches the words financial and statements next to each other)
3. Create search string in Scopus

- NOTE! In Business Source Complete you can use truncation also inside the phrase search - "financial statement*" searches both financial statement and financial statements
- Limit the publication years in ”Date range”

4. Limit the search result

- As default results are sorted from newest to oldest – change the order to “relevance” or for example “cited by (highest)”
- Access to full text = click the SFX-link and check the availability via Library’s subscription
### Too many results?

- try narrower, more specific terms: 
  marketing → “event marketing”
- add more search terms with AND: 
  "social media" AND marketing → “social media” AND marketing AND “organic food”
- use phrase search: 
  customer loyalty → ”customer loyalty”
- limit the search to the title, abstract or subject heading
- limit the search results to the scholarly / peer reviewed journals, to certain years, language, source type
Too few results?

- too many search terms combined with AND:
  marketing AND instagram AND fashion → marketing AND Instagram / marketing AND fashion
- too specific/ too narrow terms:
- marketing AND “organic fair trade coffee” → marketing AND “fair trade coffee” / marketing AND “organic coffee” / marketing AND “fair trade”
- add synonyms and alternative/ related terms with OR:
  “tax avoidance” → “tax avoidance” OR “tax evasion”
- use truncation mark:
  entrepreneurs → entrepreneur*