In a search, use * to truncate a word to retrieve more results. The * will be replaced by any number of letters that may appear after the root of a word. Searching for politic* will give you results for:

diagnostic
political
politician
politics
politicians

But be careful, if your root is too short you may get unrelated words. For example if you search for physic* you will get physic, physics, physicist, but you will also get physical, physician, etc.

A ? is a wildcard in a search. It replaces one letter. Examples:

Wom?n returns woman, women, womyn
Visuali?e returns visualize, visualise.

Using quotation marks allows you to search for specific phrases. So when searching for “Union College” you will actually get things about our college, not just any results that mention the word Union and the word college.

Using parentheses allows nesting of searches to create more complex search strings. Example:

((((college or university) and (student not freshman)) and biolog*) not “liberal arts”

And of course the most important tool: Your Librarian!
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