Hi, I’m Kimberly Wirth; a Librarian at the Porter Henderson Library. Did you find an article you like and want to find more like it? In the next few minutes I will share some tips on how to locate articles by their subject.

Subjects are labels that describe the content of an item like an article or a book. We use subject searching to quickly pull in all the information on a particular topic. It might make more sense to think of it as being similar to using hashtags on Twitter.
Subject searching is a strength of library databases that search engines like Google don't have.

A professional has examined the actual item to determine what it is about and then assigns subject headings. Therefore when you search by subject, you can be assured that the item is really about that topic.

And a subject search reads **only** the subject field of an item record; so you will get more precise search results.

So, when you search by subject, you get more accurate results that are about the topic you’re interested in. Subject searching makes it easy to find other information on your topic which is a great way to save time while searching.
Rather than trying to figure out how subjects are phrased, there are two easier ways to find subjects. The first way is to search within item records.

Let’s say we were in U-Searching looking for information about video games
And were interested in this item about video games and artificial intelligence so we clicked on the title to open the item record...

In the item record we see a section labeled “Subject Terms” and are interested in the subject “Video games – Research” so we click on the link.
And we now have a new result list of all the items in the database that are tagged with the subject “video games – research”

The second way to search by subject is from the search results page.
In the column on the left we can see the word “subject”. Let’s click on it.

And even though we can see some subjects, let’s click on the link to “show more”
And here is a list of all the subjects applied to items in our result list. They are arranged by hit count, but we can sort alphabetically by clicking on the word “Name”. Then we just select the subjects we want and click update.

To recap:

- Subjects are labels that describe the content items such as articles or books
- Subject Searching makes it easier to find more information on the same topic
- Subjects can be found in item records
- Subjects can be found on the search results page

So, in a nutshell, subjects are labels that describe the content of items and subject searching makes it easier to find more information on the same topic. Subjects can be found in two places, on item records and on the search results page.
This concludes this video on searching with subjects. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.