Searching iDiscover

When searching iDiscover you have two options.

The first is 'simple search', which works very much like a search engine: the more information you put in to it, the more relevant your results. You can enter any information about a book or article into the simple search box as it looks for the words anywhere in the catalogue record.

Let’s imagine that we have been asked to read a book on study skills by Sue Drew and Rosemary Bingham.

I enter the words: ‘study skills Drew’ and hit search. I found 13 results. I can then limit those by using the options on the right hand side of the screen, such as the date. I can also specify which library I’d like to find the book in or if I want to view it as an ebook. If I scroll down I might say that I want to see this in Wolfson College and click ‘search’ again. However, after applying this limit you can still see that I have got an irrelevant result in my list. If I click on this title, I can find out why. By scrolling down you can see that the words 'study' 'skills' and 'drew' all appear in the Description.

If you use the ‘advanced search’ you can specify which field you want the words to appear in. So for example, we can say that we want 'study skills' in the title and the author surname is 'Drew'. When we click ‘search’ on that you can see that we get to the right book straight away.