

Creating Search Strategies - Template Steps to consider before beginning a search

Step 1: Consider what your research topic or question is.

Indicate your search topic or research question:

Step 2: Identify major concepts

Identify the main concepts of your topic:

1.	2.	3.	4.
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Step 3: What are other terms/synonyms for each of the concepts identified?

Use the main concepts and translate these into keywords and synonyms (don't forget about " " and *):

	Concept 1	AND	Concept 2	AND	Concept 3	AND	Concept 4
OR							
OR							
OR							
OR							
OR							

Step 4: Apply Search Tools to create an effective search strategy

OR	Use the Boolean Operator OR to search different synonyms (this will expand your search).
AND	Use the Boolean Operator AND to combine different concepts (this will narrow your search).
NOT	Use the Boolean Operator NOT to indicate concepts that should not be reflected in your results.
" "	Use Quotation Marks " " around a concept with more than one term (this will narrow your results by creating a phrase search).
*	Place an Asterisk * at the root of any term to increase your search options for terms with the same root (this will expand your results).

Step 5: Utilize the Search Filters to Expand or Limit Your Results

Date Range	Define how current the publication of sources can be.
Source Format	Define what format of sources (e.g., print book, eBook, journal article, image, etc.) are required.
Subject	Further filter your sources, by selecting listed subject terms relevant to your search.

For more information or research help:

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