My research strategy
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1	Write down your research question. Underline 2 or 3 concepts that are essential to the question.	Research problem E.g., Explore the impact of climate change on polar bear habitat in the Arctic				
2	Write each concept in its own box.	*Key term* "climate change"	AND	*Key term* "polar bear"	AND	*Key term* habitat
3	Use these columns to list synonyms (other words that have a similar meaning) for each concept.	_____ OR _____ OR _____		_____ OR _____ OR _____		_____ OR _____ OR _____
4	Construct a search "statement" using Boolean operators (and, or) , truncation (*) and parentheses (i.e., brackets). Use this search statement in steps 5 and 6. Example: ("duty to consult" or discuss) AND (right* or claim*) and ("Aboriginal peoples" or "Indigenous peoples") _____ Once you try your search you may find that you need to change it: • Too many hits? Add another concept with AND (Example: AND Canad*) • Too few records? Add another, similar search term with OR (Example: (rights OR claims OR treaties) • Use a truncation symbol (*) to search for various forms of a word. Example: Canad* will bring back hits with Canada, Canadian or Canadians Modified search: _____					

5	Need books or government documents? Search the library catalogue.
	Titles/Location/Call number:
	1. _____ Is the book available? Y or N
	2. _____ Is the book available? Y or N
6	Need journal articles? Search the appropriate databases, listed in the subject guide for your discipline under "journal articles. Go to the library's home page(www.library.carleton.ca) and click on "subject guides" and then use the alphabetic listing to find your discipline.
	Which databases are most relevant to your topic/question? List the names:
	1. _____ 2. _____
7	Find relevant articles and list **all** the necessary information below (author, title, journal title, year, volume/issue, page numbers):
	1. _____
	2. _____
	3. _____

Remember:

Boolean operators = and, or (e.g., cats and dogs   cats or dogs)

Truncation =   * the asterisk (or star) replaces different endings for words
                           (e.g., Canad* will bring you hits with Canada, Canadian or
                            Canadians)

Parentheses =   ( ) putting words in brackets keeps similar terms together

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