

My research strategy
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1	Write down your research question. Circle 2 or 3 key concepts or terms.	Research problem				
2	Write each concept in its own box.	<i>Key concept/ term</i>	AND	<i>Key concept/term</i>	AND	<i>Key concept/term</i>
3	Use these columns to list synonyms (other words that have a similar meaning) for each concept.	<hr/> OR <hr/> OR <hr/>		<hr/> OR <hr/> OR <hr/>		<hr/> OR <hr/> OR <hr/>
4	Construct your structured search with your three (3) key words. Use this search in a database to find a peer-reviewed journal article	<i>Key concept/ term 1</i>	AND	<i>Key concept/ term 2</i>	AND	<i>Key concept/ term 3</i>
5	Construct your structured search with your three (3) key words and three (3) synonyms Use this search in a database to find a peer-reviewed journal article	(key word 1 OR synonym 1)	AND	(key word 2 OR synonym 2)		(key word 3 OR synonym 3)

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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

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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