Database Searching Worksheet – The Research Process

1. WHAT: do you want to know?

My research question/ thesis statement is: ______________________________________________

My topic is: ________________________________

2. WHERE: are you going to look?

The "type" of information I am looking for is: __________________________________________

The best place to look for this information is (SPECIFIC NAME OF DATABASE OR LOCATION): _____________________________________________________________

3. HOW: will you find it (see reverse for search strategies)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search Terms</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate Terms</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(synonyms)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate Terms</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(synonyms)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An example of a search statement is:

____________________________________________________________________________

A AND (B1 OR B2) AND (C2 OR C3)

I found ___________ results on my first attempt.

I can limit my search in the following ways:

____________________________________________________________________________

My results look useful: YES or NO
I can change my search to make it more useful by:
_____________________________________

I have emailed myself AT LEAST TWO useful articles: YES or NO
Phrase

• use quotations when you want to search an entire phrase
• "drug addictions"
• "women's rights"

AND / (OR)

• Connect terms with AND to NARROW your results
  • returns BOTH of the words
  • "drug addictions" AND juveniles
• Connect synonyms (like terms) with (OR) to get MORE results
  • returns EITHER of the words
  • Always use the (parenthesis)
  • "drug addictions" AND (juveniles OR adolescents)

Keyword vs. Subject Searching

• Keyword searches are BROAD and bring back many results
  • Are less relevant
• Subject searches are more relevant
  • Bring back LESS results