

My Research Strategy

1	Write down your research question. Underline two or three concepts that are essential to the question.	<i>Example:</i> How does <u>violence</u> in the <u>media</u> affect young <u>children</u> ?				
2	Write each concept in its own box.	<i>Example:</i> violence	AND	<i>Example:</i> media	AND	<i>Example:</i> children
3	Use these columns to list synonyms or other words that have similar meaning for each concept.	<i>Example:</i> aggression _____ OR _____ OR _____	AND	<i>Example:</i> television _____ OR _____ OR _____	AND	<i>Example:</i> teenagers _____ OR _____ OR _____
Construct a search "statement" using Boolean operators, truncation, and parentheses. Use this search statement in steps 5 and 6. <i>Example:</i> (violen* OR aggress*) AND (media OR television OR movie*) AND (child* OR youth OR teen*)						
Once you try your search, you may find that you need to modify it:						
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too many records? Add an additional concept with AND (<i>Example:</i> poverty AND crime) • Too few records? Add another, similar search term with OR (<i>Example:</i> college OR university) • Too many records on an unrelated topic? Eliminate a word with NOT (<i>Example:</i> virus NOT computer) • Use a truncation symbol (*) to search for variants of a word. Right-hand truncation is the most common form of truncation. It allows you to search for the first few letters of a word and retrieve additional letters to the right. <i>Examples:</i> (violen* OR aggress*) AND (child* OR teen*) 					
Modified search:						
Need Books or Government Documents? Search the <i>Library Catalog</i> (Library website - "Find Books & More")						
5	Titles/Locations/Call Numbers:					
	1)					Available? Yes No
	2)					Available? Yes No
Need Articles from Journals, Magazines, or Newspapers? Search <i>Databases</i> (Library website - "Find Articles & eResources")						
6	Which databases are most relevant to your topic/question? List the names of relevant databases .					
	1)	2)	3)			
7	Identify relevant article citations (Author, Title, Publication Name, Year, Volume/Issue, Page Numbers):					
	1)					Full text available? Yes No
	2)					Full text available? Yes No
	3)					Full text available? Yes No
<i>To obtain books and articles not available in Randall Library, use Interlibrary Loan (Library website – "Interlibrary Loan")</i>						