

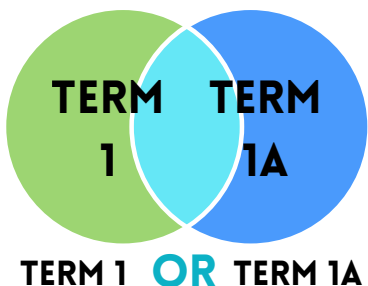
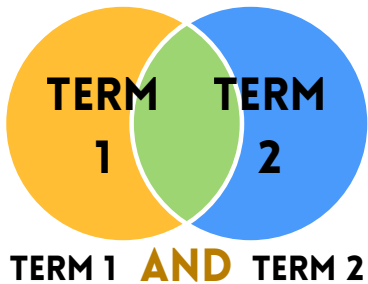
SEARCH STRATEGY TIPS

CREATING A SEARCH STRATEGY

- Identify key concepts/keywords in your topic or thesis statement.
- Identify alternate terms to your key concepts/keywords.

AND retrieves results that contain all search terms (i.e., all the results include both Term 1 AND Term 2).

- Used to **NARROW** a search
- Used to be **MORE SPECIFIC** when searching



OR retrieves results that contain any of the search terms (i.e., results can include either Term 1 OR Term 1A).

- Used to **EXPAND** a search
- Useful for searching concepts with **SIMILAR MEANINGS**

TRUNCATION is using an **Asterisk (*)** at the end of the root of a word to find all possible endings

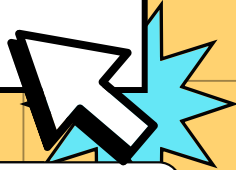
- Useful to **EXPAND** a search
- **DRIV*** = Driving, Drive, Driven, Drives, Drivers

PHRASE SEARCHING is using **Quotation Marks (" ")** to search all words belonging to one concept.

- Useful to improve the precision of a search (e.g., **"POSITIVE INFLUENCE"**, **"COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY"**)

BEGIN YOUR RESEARCH

7 Steps for Keyano College students



REVIEW YOUR ASSIGNMENT CAREFULLY

- Highlight the required length, citation style, and the types of permitted sources
- Identify potential ideas that meet your assignment's research requirements

CUSTOMIZE YOUR TOPIC

- Ask **who, what, where, when, why, and how** to focus your topic of research
- Use the answers to the above questions to help define what types of sources of information are likely to be best bets for your research

GET FAMILIAR WITH YOUR CHOSEN TOPIC

- Begin by **reviewing** general sources (e.g., Wikipedia, newspapers, YouTube)
- Using your new understanding, seek more discipline-specific and detailed sources (e.g., peer-reviewed journal articles, eBooks, books)

IDENTIFY KEY CONCEPTS

- Take your topic and identify the main terms - these terms will be the key concepts or keywords.
- For example, the following topic's keywords are in bold: Among **premature infants**, what is the effect of **music therapy** in reducing **stress**?

CONSIDER YOUR GATHERED SOURCES

- The sources you select will determine what information you find
- **Evaluate** each source to determine if it suits your need
- Look for a variety of sources (e.g., different authors or journals) that report on the same or similar topics to help compare and assess your selected sources

TRACK YOUR RESEARCH

- Research doesn't happen in just one sitting. Use a research template to note keywords, search strategies, and databases that have retrieved results
- Save/download all sources you think you may use

MAKE ADJUSTMENTS

- Research is **an iterative process** and will involve some trial and error
- As you engage in different steps of the research process, you may need to **adjust** the focus of your topic, keywords, or research scope to meet your research needs and assignment expectations



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