



“Information You Can Trust”

## Database Search Strategy Worksheet

<http://depts.alverno.edu/library/rbsinfolitpage/handouts/DatabaseSearchStrategyWS.pdf>

**Search Question:** Write your research topic as a question. Be sure that your question accurately summarizes your research topic.

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**Major Concepts:** Examine your research question, what are the major concepts? The chart below will help you identify some good search terms.

Major Concepts	Synonyms, brand names, generic names, abbreviations or alternate ways of phrasing
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

**Search Statement:** Use the terms from the chart to structure a search statement. Be sure not to make your search too specific or too broad. As a general rule, your results will be better if you incorporate no more than 3 concepts into a search. Be sure to use the appropriate “Boolean” connector (**AND, OR, NOT**) and consider using subject headings to improve your results.

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**Search:** List the databases or websites that you plan to search. Be sure to visit the Alverno Library’s website, <http://depts.alverno.edu/library/>, to access our databases and quality websites.

**Evaluate Your Results:** Are you happy with your results? If not, how can you improve them?