



“Information You Can Trust”

Database Search Strategy Worksheet

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

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

Search Terms:

Key Concept	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 2 or 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.

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?