

Database Searching Worksheet

College of Medicine-Phoenix Health Sciences Library

Research Question: Write out your topic in the form of a question.

Example: Is a yearly mammogram more effective in detecting breast cancer compared with a mammogram every 3 years in women under age 50?

Your Research Question:

Major Concepts: Look at your research question and identify 2-3 concepts that you can search.

Example:

Major Concept	Synonyms, brand names, generic names, abbreviations, or other spellings
1. Mammography	Mammogram
2. Early Diagnosis	"early detection of cancer"
3. Screening intervals	"3 years"

Your Topic:

Major Concept	Synonyms, brand names, generic names, abbreviations, or other spellings
1.	
2.	
3.	

Search string: Using the terms above, create a search statement using "Boolean" operators (AND, OR). Try not to be too specific or too broad. Remember to "place quotes" around your phrases. You will want to use OR within the parentheses for each concept, then connect the concept strings with AND.

Example

(mammogram OR mammography)

AND

("breast neoplasm" OR "breast cancer")

AND

("screening intervals" OR "3 years")

Your Topic:

()
AND
()
AND
()

PubMed

Example:

Concept	Keyword	MeSH
Mammography	Mammogram	"Mammography" [MeSH]
Early Diagnosis	"early detection of cancer"	"Early Detection of Cancer"[Mesh]
Screening intervals	"3 years"	

("mammogram" OR "mammography" OR "Mammography" [MeSH])

AND

("breast neoplasm" OR "breast cancer" OR "Early Detection of Cancer"[Mesh])

AND

("screening intervals" OR "3 years")

Your Topic:

Concept	Keywords	MeSH

()

AND

()

AND

()

Notes:

Embase

Example

Concept	Keywords	EmTree
Mammography	Mammogram	'mammography'/exp
Early Diagnosis	"early detection of cancer"	'early cancer diagnosis'/exp
Screening intervals	"3 years"	

("mammogram" OR "mammography" OR 'mammography'/exp)

AND

("breast neoplasm" OR "breast cancer" OR 'early cancer diagnosis'/exp)

AND

("screening intervals" OR "3 years")

Your Topic:

Concept	Keywords	EmTree

()

AND

()

AND

()

Notes:

Web of Science

Concept	Keywords
Mammography	Mammogram
Early Diagnosis	"early detection of cancer"
Screening intervals	"3 years"

(mammogram OR mammography)

AND

("early detection of cancer" OR "3 years")

AND

("screening intervals" OR "3 years")

Your Topic:

Concept	Keywords

()

AND

()

AND

()

Notes: