Nursing Database Search Strategy Worksheet

Step 1: Define your research topic.

State your research topic here.

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

Sample topic:
What are ways in which nurses can promote exercise to the elderly?

Step 2: Identify the important concepts for your search.

Underline the key words in your sentence above.

List those key terms here:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>Concept 2</th>
<th>Concept 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>Concept 2</th>
<th>Concept 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>promote</td>
<td>exercise</td>
<td>elderly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 3: Create a list of synonyms or related terms for each concept.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1 synonyms</th>
<th>Concept 2 synonyms</th>
<th>Concept 3 synonyms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1 synonyms</th>
<th>Concept 2 synonyms</th>
<th>Concept 3 synonyms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>promote=encourage</td>
<td>exercise=activity</td>
<td>elderly=senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>motivate</td>
<td>fitness</td>
<td>geriatric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>older adult</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 4: Create a search strategy using keywords, Boolean operators, parentheses, truncation, etc...  

**What are Boolean operators?**

The Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT define the relationships between words or groups of words.

**The AND operator**

You can specify that terms must appear in the results you retrieve by using the AND operator.

example: cancer AND prevention

Each of the above search statements will find documents containing both terms,

You can use the AND operator more than once in a search.

example: cancer AND prevention AND screening

**The OR operator**

Using the OR operator allows either or both of your search terms appear in your results.

example: injury OR wound

You can use the OR operator more than once in a search.

example: injury OR wound OR trauma

**The NOT operator**

The NOT operator forbids the word after NOT from appearing in the search results.

example: bulimia NOT anorexia

**Truncation**

Truncation is a method of including all the possible ending forms of a word through the use of a symbol. It is an effective tool for expanding a search that has retrieved too few results. To truncate the word education, type “educat” followed by the appropriate truncation symbol for the particular database (usually *).

educat* would retrieve:
educate
educating
educator
education
educational
Parentheses or Nesting

Use parentheses ( ) to group segments of Boolean queries for more complex searches when using the OR operator.

example: treatment AND (HIV OR AIDS)

Step 5: Create and conduct your searches in the nursing and health databases:

Please contact a Durham Tech librarian if you need assistance with research.

Telephone: 919-536-7211

Email: library@durhamtech.edu