

# Planning your literature search

## Formulate your own literature search plan

### 1) Key concepts

What is your research question? What are the key concepts?

### 2) Selecting the keywords:

Brainstorm or mind map all the words that describe the subject you're looking for:

### 3) Truncation, wildcards and phrases

**Question:** Can you truncate any words using \*?

**Question:** Can terms be searched as “phrases”?

### 4) Connect ideas

Group the different aspects of your search together with the appropriate Boolean operators.

	AND OR NOT		AND OR NOT	
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### 5) Identify limits

**Question:** What types of document are you looking for (e.g. journal articles, patents, standards, legislation, news?)

**Question:** What age of material are you looking for? How far back do you want to go?

**Question:** What language/s are you looking for? What geographical location/s are you looking for?

**Question:** Any other limits? E.g. human, animal, age of research participants?

**6) What resources and databases do you need to search?**

### Further Help with literature searching:

- Planning your literature search
  - <http://www2.le.ac.uk/library/for/researchers/find-information/plan-your-literature-search>
- Conducting your literature search
  - <http://www2.le.ac.uk/library/for/researchers/find-information/conduct-your-literature-review>
- Making research information come to you
  - <http://www2.le.ac.uk/library/for/researchers/find-information/make-information-come-to-you>

The library's Research Services team are available to help:

- E: [librarians@le.ac.uk](mailto:librarians@le.ac.uk)
- <http://www2.le.ac.uk/library/for/researchers>

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