

Searching Strategies

Save time by developing a targeted search strategy. Construct and refine your search with the strategies below.

1. Write your research question.

Fill in the blanks below to write your research question.

RQ: How does _____ affect _____ in _____?
(your intervention topic) (your main topic) (your population)

2. Develop search terms.

- Write your intervention topic, main topic, and population in the spaces provided.
- List at least four similar or related terms (e.g., teenager OR youth OR adolescent).

Intervention Topic:	_____	OR	_____	OR	_____
	(intervention topic)		(similar or related term)		(similar or related term)
Main Topic:	_____	OR	_____	OR	_____
	(main topic)		(similar or related term)		(similar or related term)
Population:	_____	OR	_____	OR	_____
	(population)		(similar or related term)		(similar or related term)
Other:	_____	OR	_____	OR	_____
	(other)		(similar or related term)		(similar or related term)
Other:	_____	OR	_____	OR	_____
	(other)		(similar or related term)		(similar or related term)

3. Use phrases and truncation.

Add quotation marks to your search terms (above) that are phrases (e.g., “higher education”). Next, determine if any of your search terms would benefit from being truncated (e.g., teen*).

4. Enter search terms.

- Go to Advanced SuperSearch: <http://bit.ly/advanced-supersearch>
- Log in with your Saint Mary’s username and password.
- Enter your search terms for your intervention topic into the first search box.
- Type **OR** in capital letters between each search term.
- Repeat “3” and “4” for your main topic and population in the second and third search boxes.
- Use the plus sign (⊕) to add search boxes if necessary.
- Choose disciplines (optional).
- Select **Search**.

5. Browse search results and revise search terms.

Scan through your search results to identify other relevant search terms or subjects. Revise your search terms or add new search terms if necessary.

6. Refine search results.

- Use at least three search strategies or limiters (e.g., date, discipline, phrases) to refine your search results.
- Refine your search results to fewer than 250 resources.
- Mark the search strategies and limiters below that you used in your search.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phrases | <input type="checkbox"/> Disciplines | <input type="checkbox"/> Field searching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Truncation | <input type="checkbox"/> Boolean operators | <input type="checkbox"/> Publication date range |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peer-reviewed articles | | |

7. Link to your best search results.

Copy and paste a permalink to your 250 or fewer search results (note that the permalink is not the URL at the top of the page). Learn how to get the correct permalink at <http://bitly.com/library-permalink>

Permalink: _____

8. Report the number of relevant results.

Report the number of resources in the first two pages of search results that could answer (aspects of) your research question:

Number of Results: _____

9. Copy and paste an APA citation.

Select a resource from your search results that is topically-relevant to your research question. Copy and paste the APA citation for this resource below:

APA Citation: _____