

## SEARCH PLAN

1

PRECISE YOUR **SUBJECT PERSPECTIVE(S)**: point of view of the author (research domains)

- History     Sociology     Communication     Management     Teachers     Law  
 Philosophy     Psychology     Arts/Literature     Business     Health     Sciences

2

DEFINE A **SEARCH QUESTION**:

\*Use questions like *who, what, where, when*:

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3

IDENTIFY **CONCEPTS**:

\**Exclude relation terms* (causal, relational, comparative, exploratory, etc.)

1st concept	2 <sup>nd</sup> concept	3d concept	4th concept

4

FIND **SYNONYMS** FOR EACH CONCEPTS:

\**Look into*: dictionaries (general or specialized), encyclopedias (Wikipedia, Britannica), thesaurus

\*Check for the evolution of *trendy keywords and concepts* used in different times

\*\**Add translations* in your familiar languages (to find all the available documentation)

OR

1st concept	2 <sup>nd</sup> concept	3d concept	4th concept
	AND →	AND →	AND →

**Use the truncation\***  
to include:  
nouns,  
verbs,  
adverbs,  
adjectives,  
etc.

**Use "quotation marks"**  
for exact expressions.

5

**COMBINE** THE CONCEPTS IN THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

- **synonyms** are combined with the **OR operator**
- **different concepts** are combined with the **AND operator**

6

**SELECT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (CATALOGS OR DATABASES) OR INFORMATION SOURCES:**

<b>Document types :</b>	<b>Information systems:</b>
Books, Specialized dictionaries and encyclopedias, DVD/VHS	Koha library catalog BAnQ library catalog
Journal articles (Scholarly and cultural), thesis and dissertations, proceedings, research reports	Érudit Journal of Chemical Education Electronic resources of BAnQ (need subscription)
Videos (movies, documentaries, animations, tv shows)	Curio.ca (National Geographic, Radio-Canada) CVE (BBC, Télé-Québec) National Film Board
News and Press releases	Eurêka.cc (Press, Television and Radio, Social Media, Studies and Reports)
Government publications	<u>Web sites via Google :</u> Statistics Canada (Census of population) Institut de la Statistique du Québec CANSIIM, Canadian Census Analyser, Odesi UNData, World Bank, EuroStat, Nationmaster
Others:	

7

**SEARCH RESULTS: FINAL ADJUSTMENTS FOR A WELL-FOCUSED TOPIC!****TOO BROAD** (too many results = too much information)?

- Your assignment will lack depth and focus
- Suggestions to help :
  - o Include limitations like geographic locations (North America, Canada, Montreal)
  - o Include a precise *Who* (children, teenager, woman, man, adults) in the topic
  - o Include another *What* (concept) in combination

**TOO NARROW** (too few results = not enough information)?

- Your assignment may lack breadth
- Suggestions to help :
  - o Try a more generic concept if too specific
  - o Exclude limitations like geographic locations (North America, Canada, Montreal)
  - o Brainstorm other relevant issues that may provide more information
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8

**EVALUATE THE INFORMATION:**

- **SOURCE:** Credentials (educational background, organization affiliations), Purpose (intent), Reliability/Reputation of the author (academic, peer-reviewed publications, governmental, non-governmental, media, educational, commercial, interest group)
- **CONTENT OF INFORMATION:** **Currency** (recent), **Purpose** (inform, entertain, opinion piece, literature review, dissemination research results), **Relevance** (relevant to your topic, right academic level), **Accuracy** (statements and facts backed by references).