

# Literature search strategy

## (Built Environment)

Use this guide to help you plan your literature search

### Step 1: Define your topic

Write your search question below:

Remember to choose a topic that is neither too broad nor too narrow.

### Step 2: Choose your keywords

Look at your search question; what are the keywords? Write them below:

### Step 3: Identify alternative terminology

Think of alternative terms for your keywords:

Think about synonyms, acronyms, American terminology and alternative spellings. Remember, **truncation** (\*) hous\* will find alternative word endings

#### **Step 4: Combining your keywords**

Remember: OR makes your search broader; AND makes your search narrower

#### **Step 5: Limiting**

Write the ways in which you might limit your search if you retrieve too many results:

How far back you wish to search? Do you only want articles with a UK focus? Can you select a specific age group within the database? Do you only want articles about a specific type of building e.g. Shard?

#### **Step 6: Choose your sources**

Write a list of all the sources you want to use to obtain your results:

e.g. LibrarySearch, Academic Search Complete, Business Source complete, Emerald, Factiva, Google Scholar.