

Literature search strategy

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 - 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

Combine your keywords using

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. Academic Search Complete, Avery, LibrarySearch etc