



LITERATURE SEARCHING

A literature search is a comprehensive, organised, systematic search for all relevant material available on a given topic.

Consider: Write down the key concepts of a topic you are interested in.

For example: The impact of the internet on the self-esteem of teenage girls.

internet

self-esteem

teenage

Think about **your** topic. Can you pick out the key elements?

Key Concept 1

Key Concept 2

Key Concept 3

Consider: Are there particular filters that would help narrow down your search? For example, age, gender, qualitative/quantitative studies.

Filter 1

Filter 2

Filter 3

Consider: How would others describe your key concepts?

- Think about synonyms or related terms for your key concepts eg TEENAGER > ADOLESCENT > JUVENILE (*Tip: Use the thesaurus in PSYCINFO.*)

Concept 1

Synonym/related term

Synonym/related term

Concept 2

Synonym/related term

Synonym/related term

Concept 3

Synonym/related term

Synonym/related term

NOW USE THE TERMS YOU'VE DEVELOPED TO SEARCH THE KEY DATABASES

DATABASE	CONCEPT 1	AND	CONCEPT 2	FILTERS APPLIED	COMMENTS
		AND			
		AND			

AND - Will return results where **BOTH** terms are in each item.

OR - Will return results where **EITHER** term is in each record.

NOT - Will return results that include Concept 1 **BUT NOT** Concept 2. (In some databases, **AND NOT** will be used.)

Try conducting the same searches again, but incorporating **OR/NOT**.