Research Strategy Worksheet: Locating Resources in Six Steps

1 Write down your research question. Underline two or three concepts that are essential to the question

Example: How does violence in the media affect young children?

2 Write each concept in its own box

Example: violence	**AND**	*Example*: media	**AND**	*Example*: children

3 Use these columns to list synonyms or other words that have similar meaning for each concept

Example: aggression _____ OR _____ OR _____	**AND**	*Example*: television _____ OR _____ OR _____	**AND**	*Example*: teenagers _____ OR _____ OR _____

Construct your search using Boolean operators, truncation, and parentheses. Use this search in steps 5 and 6.
Example: (violence or aggression) AND (media or television or movies) AND (children or youth or teenagers)

4 **Tips for Searching**

- Too many records? Add an additional concept with **AND** (*Example:* poverty **AND** crime)
- Too few records? Add another search term with **OR** (*Example:* college **OR** university)
- Too many records on an unrelated topic? Eliminate a word with **NOT** (*Example:* virus **NOT** computer)
- Use a truncation symbol (* ? !) to search for variants of a word. Right-hand truncation is the most common form of truncation. It allows you to search for the first few letters of a word and retrieve additional letters to the right. *Examples:* (violen* OR aggressi*) AND (child* OR teen*)

5 **Need Books or Government Documents? Search *Library Catalog*** (Library homepage – Click on "Search Catalog")

Titles/Locations/Call Numbers:

6 **Need Articles from Journals, Magazines, or Newspapers? Search *Databases*** (Library website – Click on "Articles & eResources")

Which databases are most relevant to your topic/question? List the names of *relevant databases*.

1) **2)** **3)**

Article Citations (Author, Title, Publication Name, Year, Volume/Issue, Page Numbers):

1)

2)

To obtain books and articles not available in Randall Library, use Interlibrary Loan (UNCW ILLiad)

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