



Search Strategies Worksheet

State your topic or question:

Identify main concepts:

Concept #1

Concept #2

Concept #3

Identify keywords to search:

Keywords for #1

OR

OR

OR

AND

Keywords for #1

OR

OR

OR

AND

Keywords for #1

OR

OR

OR

Tips:

- Use concrete nouns (person, place, thing).
 - person = aboriginal people
 - place = Canada
 - thing = land claims
- Avoid words like “effects”, “challenges”, “consequences”, “advantages”, “disadvantages”, “pros”, “cons”. For example, if your topic is “the effects of bullying on academic achievement” avoid using *effects*. Instead think about what the “effects” are on academic achievement, such as low grades, failure, poor attendance. Or limit your search to bullying and academic achievement.

Appropriate tools for the job:

Once you have determined the specific types of resources you need for the assignment, the next step is to choose the appropriate tools or databases to search. Review the following chart to help select possible search tools to use for each type of resource you need.

Resource	Search tools
Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library catalogue • Google Books
Journal articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles database • Google Scholar
Newspaper/magazine articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles database • Newspaper/magazine websites
Government documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library catalogue • Government websites
Statistical data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics Canada • NGO websites (e.g. UN, OECD, World Bank)
Maps and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library catalogue • Google maps
Websites, blogs, podcasts etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search engines
Videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library catalogue • Search engines • YouTube