**Constructing a Search Strategy**

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| **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* | **AND** | *Example: television* | **AND** | *Example: teenagers* |
| OR | **AND** | OR | **AND** | OR |
| OR | **AND** | OR | **AND** | OR |
| Construct your search using Boolean operators and brackets.  *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)  Or use truncation (\* ?) to search variants of a word, right-hand truncation allows you to search the first few letters of a word and find other variants (example child\*) – this will get child and children)  Too many records on an unrelated topic? Eliminate a word with NOT (example virus NOT computer) | | | | | |
| **Record what searches you conducted here** | | | | | |
| **5** | **Consider other sources of information**  Search the library catalogue. Look at our online subject guides. Are there organizations or individuals you could contact or interview for relevant information? | | | | | |
|  | **Other information sources you referred to** | | | | | |