## Developing a Search Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steps</th>
<th>Search Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Write down your topic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Select keywords from your topic | | Keyword 1  
Keyword 2  
Keyword 3  
Keyword 4  
Keyword 5 |
| Based on the keywords you identified, select synonyms, related terms and alternate forms for each of these keywords | Keyword 1  
Synonyms  
Keyword 2  
Synonyms  
Keyword 3  
Synonyms  
Keyword 4  
Synonyms  
Keyword 5  
Synonyms |
| **Search Strategy 1:** Formulate a search strategy using Boolean operators (AND, OR) to connect your keywords. Use double quotation marks in Summon to bind 2 keywords together as one search term. | Keyword 1  
Synonyms  
OR  
OR  
AND  
Keyword 2  
Synonyms  
OR  
OR  
AND  
Keyword 3  
Synonyms  
OR  
OR  
AND  
Keyword 4  
Synonyms  
OR  
OR  
AND  
Keyword 5  
Synonyms  
OR  
OR  
AND |
| **Search Strategy 2:** Formulate a search strategy using Boolean operators (AND, OR) to connect your keywords. Use double quotation marks in Summon to bind 2 keywords together as one search term. | Keyword 1  
Synonyms  
OR  
OR  
AND  
Keyword 2  
Synonyms  
OR  
OR  
AND  
Keyword 3  
Synonyms  
OR  
OR  
AND  
Keyword 4  
Synonyms  
OR  
OR  
AND  
Keyword 5  
Synonyms  
OR  
OR  
AND |
| Select appropriate search tool like Summon, a specific database, ... | |
| Search | Take your search strategies from above and insert them in the database you selected |
| Review and evaluate results - revise search if necessary | Not enough results or not what you were looking for? Revise your search terms, remove a keyword (broaden search), add a keyword (narrow search), change keywords, look at subject terms listed in possible resources and see if you can locate additional keyword that way. Also use the refinement options (eg. full text only, scholarly articles, date range, etc.) |

Turn over for an example.
### Developing a Search Strategy - Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steps</th>
<th>Search Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Write down your topic</td>
<td>Discussed the prevalence and use of marijuana by Australian teenagers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select keywords from your topic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 1</td>
<td>marijuana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 2</td>
<td>Australian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 3</td>
<td>teenagers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Based on the keywords you identified, select synonyms, related terms and alternate forms for each of these keywords**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keyword 1 Synonyms</th>
<th>cannabis, pot, weed, dope (broaden terms: drugs, 'drug use')</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 2 Synonyms</td>
<td>Australia, Australians, Northern Territory, Queensland, ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 3 Synonyms</td>
<td>teenagers, adolescent(s), youth, young people, adolescence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 4 Synonyms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 5 Synonyms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Search Strategy 1:**
Formulate a search strategy using Boolean operators (AND, OR) to connect your keywords. Use double quotation marks in Summon to bind 2 keywords together as one search term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keyword 1 Synonyms</th>
<th>marijuana</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>weed</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>pot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 2 Synonyms</td>
<td>Australian</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 3 Synonyms</td>
<td>teenagers</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>teenager</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>teen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 4 Synonyms</td>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 5 Synonyms</td>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Search Strategy 2:**
Formulate a search strategy using Boolean operators (AND, OR) to connect your keywords. Use double quotation marks in Summon to bind 2 keywords together as one search term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keyword 1 Synonyms</th>
<th>dope</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>weed</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 2 Synonyms</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 3 Synonyms</td>
<td>youth</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>adolescent*</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 4 Synonyms</td>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 5 Synonyms</td>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select appropriate search tool like Summon, a specific database, Google Scholar, ...

**Summon**

Search

Take your search strategies from above and insert them in the database you selected

Review and evaluate results - revise search if necessary

Not enough results or not what you were looking for? Revise your search terms, remove a keyword (broaden search), add a keyword (narrow search), change keywords, look at subject terms listed in possible resources and see if you can locate additional keyword that way. Also turn over for an example.