

## Developing Advanced Search Queries: Worksheet for Advanced Searching Education Topics

### Listing search terms

**1. State your research question.**

[E.g., Does illegal immigration, by increasing the cultural diversity in a community, impact reading instruction programs in schools?]

**2. Identify the key concepts you want to find information about to answer your question.**

[E.g., Does illegal immigration, by increasing the cultural diversity in a community, impact reading instruction programs in schools?]

**3. Identify synonyms and related terms for what each concept might be called in the documents you seek.**

For example, to search for information about the relationship between cultural diversity, instruction, and reading, the following list of synonymous or related terms might be helpful:

List the key concepts in your research question		
Concept 1: <u>cultural diversity</u>	Concept 2: <u>instruction</u>	Concept 3: <u>reading</u>
List synonyms or important related terms for each concept		
Terms for concept 1:	Terms for concept 2:	Terms for concept 3:
cultural diversity	instruction	reading
OR: multiculturalism	OR: teaching methods	OR: literacy
OR: immigration	OR: education	OR: language arts

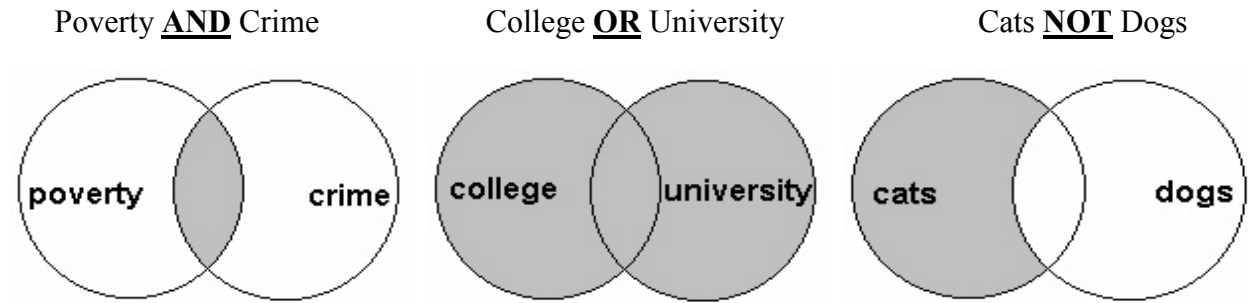
**4. Think about the concepts and synonyms for your own research question/topic and fill in the following table:**

List the key concepts in your research question		
Concept 1:	Concept 2:	Concept 3:
List synonyms or important related terms for each concept		
Terms for concept 1:	Terms for concept 2:	Terms for concept 3:
OR:	OR:	OR:
OR:	OR:	OR:
OR:	OR:	OR:

### Combining search terms

Boolean operators enable you to relate concepts in your query so as to control how a database search engine combines your terms when it searches for information about your topic.

**Boolean Logic:**



Often, depending on the query conventions of a database, you can combine synonyms within a parentheses using the OR or NOT operators and then, using an AND operator, connect that set with a similarly constructed set of synonyms of your other concepts.

For example, the list of concepts and synonyms on the previous page, shown as an example of searching for information about cultural diversity and immigration’s impact on reading instruction, could be entered into the Advanced Search query boxes of EBSCO’s **ERIC** and **Education Abstracts** databases as:

Find: ("cultural divers\*" OR immigration) in Default Fields Search Clear ?

and (teaching methods OR instruction) in SU Descriptors (All)

and (reading OR literacy) in SU Descriptors (All)

in Multiple Databases ?

Now, construct a similar query using the synonyms and related terms you developed on the previous page for the key concepts of your own research question.

**Advanced Search**

Find: ( \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ ) in the \_\_\_\_\_ Field

AND ( \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ ) in the \_\_\_\_\_ Field

AND ( \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ ) in the \_\_\_\_\_ Field