

# *Library Learning Objects*

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## Constructing a Search Statement

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# Constructing a Search Statement

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**Step 1:** List the terms that might be used to describe each of the main concept(s) of your topic (use as many as needed).

For example, if your topic is on the *impact of technology on the academic achievement of home schooled students*, the main concepts are (a) *technology*; (b) home schooling; and (c) *academic achievement*.

**Step 2:** For each of the main concepts, identify synonymous or related terms which may also be used in your search statements.

*Sample Topic:*

*Impact of technology on the academic achievement of home schooled students*

Concept "A"	Concept "B"	Concept "C"
<i>technology</i> <i>computers</i> <i>distance learning</i>	<i>academic achievement</i> <i>grades</i> <i>student achievement</i> <i>academic success</i>	<i>home schooling</i> <i>home programs</i> <i>nontraditional education</i>

**Step 3:** Enter search statement in appropriate database.

The list of terms you've identified (above) may be entered as a search statement, using *search operators*:

- **OR** combines the related terms for each concept, broadening the search to be more inclusive.
- **AND** narrows the search to records that include at least one of the terms from each concept group.

For example, the above terms may be combined as follows:

*(technology OR computers OR distance learning)*

AND

*(academic achievement OR grades)*

AND

*(homeschooling OR home programs)*

## Search Statement Worksheet

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Your topic statement \_\_\_\_\_

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Identify terms for each aspect/concept of your topic statement:

<i><b>Concept A</b></i>	<i><b>Concept B</b></i>	<i><b>Concept C</b></i>

Combine terms from each column above using the **OR** operator:

Concept A terms: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** \_\_\_\_\_

Concept B terms: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** \_\_\_\_\_

Concept C terms: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** \_\_\_\_\_

Place each group of terms (above) inside a set of parentheses and combine each group with the **AND** operator:

Concept A terms: ( \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ )

**AND**

Concept B terms: ( \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ )

**AND**

Concept C terms: ( \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ )