

Fill out the following guide prior to beginning library research.

- From your reading, what do you want to know?...find out?...know more about?
(complete the following sentence describing your interest)

I want to learn about:

- Assign one word to the main topic of the above sentence.

- Think of synonyms for this word.

- What else do want to know about your topic? (Think of supporting concepts)
Assign a term to each of these concepts.

Concept _____ Term _____

Concept _____ Term _____

- Should you narrow your topic further by time, place or persons?

Time _____

Place _____

Persons _____

- Re-write a research question using a combination of the terms above.

- Re-write your research question into language the search instrument can understand.
Basic Formula = (main topic OR synonym) AND (supporting concept) AND (supporting concept)
NOT (excluded concept)

- Try it out and adjust research question as needed using various combinations of terms from this exercise.