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Research Strategy Worksheet

1. Briefly and clearly describe your research question/problem in a sentence or two:

2. Identify the key concepts from your research question/problem above and list them below. (most research topics have 2-3 concepts)

Concept 1:

Concept 2:

Concept 3:

3. Brainstorm some alternative keywords which might also be used to describe your key concepts listed above. These may include broader, narrower, or synonyms. Copy each of your key concepts listed above on the lines below. Then next to each key concept, list alternative keywords on a single line.
Example: Concept 1: **teaching**, instruction, education

Concept 1 keywords:

Concept 2 keywords:

Concept 3 keywords:

4. Use the keywords you brainstormed in Section 3 to construct at least two keyword search statements using the search boxes on the next page.

Keyword Search Tips

- **"OR"** connects synonyms, **"AND"** connects separate concepts, **"NOT"** excludes concepts
- Place "quotation marks" around words that should be searched together as a phrase (i.e. "heart attack" or "Malcolm X")
- * wildcard at the end of the root of a word (i.e. disab*) will find word variations
- Search strategies page: <http://library.myunion.edu/help-center/search-strategies/>

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Advanced Search

microloan* OR microfinance* OR microcredit OR Kiva OR "Muhammad Yunus" full-text ▼

AND ▼ poverty OR poor OR low-income full-text ▼

Search

full-text ▼

AND ▼ full-text ▼

Search

full-text ▼

AND ▼ full-text ▼

Search

full-text ▼

AND ▼ full-text ▼

Search

full-text ▼

AND ▼ full-text ▼

Search

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5. **List the databases and other resources that you intend to search.** (If you're not sure where to begin, try Google Scholar@UI&U and the other recommended & multidisciplinary databases at http://library.myunion.edu/article_category/recommended-multidisciplinary/. See the article page in the help center: <http://library.myunion.edu/help-center/find-articles-e-books-more/articles/>)

6. **List five references that you found on your topic using an appropriate citation format** (i.e. APA, MLA, Chicago) and where you found them (i.e. Academic Search Premier, Google Scholar@UI&U, etc.).

7. **Write a brief paragraph about your search process.** (i.e. What did you learn from this process? What database produced the best search results? Were you surprised by your search results? What keyword search statement produced the best search results? Did you need to refine your search by broadening it or narrowing it, and if so, how?)

Research Help at the UI&U Library

UI&U Library Website: <http://library.myunion.edu>

Research Guide: <http://library.myunion.edu/help-center/research-guide/>

Citation Tools: <http://library.myunion.edu/help-center/citation-tools/>

Citation Styles: [APA](#), [Chicago](#) & [MLA](#)

Ask a Librarian: 800-871-8165 x8747 or library@myunion.edu