Developing an Effective Research STRATEGY

**USE OPERATORS**

Use **AND** between two keywords to find results that have both terms. This search limits your results and increases accuracy.

Gang Violence AND Rural Areas

Use **OR** between keywords to find results with either. This will increase results. It works best when searching a specialized term.

Hispanic OR Latino

The **NOT** to exclude terms that are not relevant to your research.

Marijuana NOT Medical

**TRY ADVANCED SEARCH TECHNIQUES**

Nesting Search Terms
Use **parentheses** to build a search with a combination of operators. Using parentheses in your search is a lot like using them in arithmetic—the search inside the parentheses is done first.

Public Sector AND (Affirmative Action OR Workforce Diversity)

Phrase Searching
Phrases can be identified by **Quotation Marks**. By using quotation marks, you will only see results with the terms you typed in the exact order you typed them.

“Human Resource Management”

Truncation
Allows you to search various forms of a word by finding alternate endings. The character (*) is placed at the end of the first few letters of a search term or at the end of its root.

Teen* retrieves teen, teens, teenage, teenager, and teenagers.

Set Limits
Set search limits such as scholarly journals, full-text, or document type. Filter your results by publication year when appropriate.

Looking for more information?
Visit the LibGuide at savannahstate.libguides.com/padm6876. Or, make a research appointment with your librarian liaison, Autumn Johnson at johnsona@savannahstate.edu
RESEARCH QUESTION
1. Write down your research question you have developed for this assignment. If you don’t have one write a brief sentence about your research interest.

KEYWORDS
2. What are the main concepts of keywords in your research question? Circle your keywords and copy them into the boxes in the table below (there might be fewer, or more, than three concepts)

3. In the column under each concept, write down alternative terms that might be useful (synonyms, phrases, broader/narrower terms, etc.)

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GALILEO PASSWORD?

QUESTIONS TO ASK MY LIBRARIAN:
IS YOUR INFORMATION APPROPRIATE? TEST IT!

C-R-A-A-P

CURRENCY  the timeliness of the information
- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?
- Are the links functional?

RELEVANCE  the importance of the information for your needs
- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience? Is the information at an appropriate level?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?
- Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?

AUTHORITY  the source of the information
- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- What are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? (.com .edu .org .gov)

ACCURACY  the truthfulness and correctness of the content
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?

PURPOSE  the reason the information exists
- What is the purpose of the information?
- Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?