

# Research plan

## 1. What information do I need?

Title/topic:

### What are the concepts/ ideas/ themes that make up my topic?

*Think of synonyms, alternative spellings and variant forms of words.  
Consider narrow, specific and broad words related to the concept.*

First Concept:

[OR]

Second Concept:

[OR]

Third Concept:

[OR]

*Write down relevant date limits, language limits, geographic region, format of information eg: video, web page*

## 2. Where should I look for information?

### Resource brainstorming

*Write down known key authors, organisations, recommended reading, Web sites, experts, including your Liaison Librarian that will be useful for researching your topic.*

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## 3. Selecting and using sources of information

### Library Catalogue

<p><b>Tips</b></p> <p>Enter author surname first: Smith, F or organisation name</p> <p>Leave out "A", "An" or "The" at the start of a title. Type words in exact order.</p> <p>Use * as the 'truncation symbol' to search for alternate word endings Austral* for Australia, Australian etc Two words together are searched as a phrase eg New Zealand. Use and/or to combine concepts.</p> <p>Use Library of Congress Subject Headings. Do some test searches to find appropriate subject headings.</p>	<p><b>Type of search</b></p> <p>(select appropriate types below) <span style="float: right;">Write down words to use below</span></p>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Author
	<input type="checkbox"/> Title
	<input type="checkbox"/> Keyword
<input type="checkbox"/> Subject	

<p><b>Please consider</b></p> <p><i>Too little information?</i> You may need to think broadly about your topic when searching the catalogue.</p> <p><i>Too much information?</i> It is useful to look at the table of contents and indexes of books to see if they contain the specific information you require.</p> <p><i>Looking for journal articles?</i> The catalogue does not contain journal articles (unless they are included in your reading list). You need to search a database.</p>	<p><b>Catalogue search: notes</b></p>
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### Databases

<p><b>Tips</b></p> <p>Use the help button on each database to find out about its unique features and the best way to construct your search.</p> <p><b>Keyword searching:</b> Uses search strings to link words eg: (identit\$ OR self) AND (virtual OR online ) AND communities - use synonyms to describe each concept, link with the word OR eg: (identity OR self) - 'nest' each concept in parentheses. eg: (virtual OR online) - use the appropriate truncation symbol for the specific database eg: \$, * , ? eg: identit\$ - search each concept separately if the database allows you to combine sets of results - if the database does not allow you to combine sets of results, link the search string for each concept with the word AND</p> <p><b>Subject searching</b> Uses the specific index or thesaurus terms particular to the database eg: Self-Identity Use the help information for instructions on subject searching as each database varies A subject heading will draw together all articles on a subject avoiding the use of large numbers of synonyms. Use a keyword search to find an excellent article on your topic then analyse the subject headings associated with it.</p>	
<b>Name of database</b>	<b>Type of search</b>

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1.	<input type="checkbox"/> Search string using keywords <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Subject headings <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of searches eg: author, journal title.
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> Search string using keywords <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Subject headings <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of searches eg: author, journal title.
3.	<input type="checkbox"/> Search string using keywords <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Subject headings <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of searches eg: author, journal title.
4.	<input type="checkbox"/> Search string using keywords <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Subject headings <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of searches eg: author, journal title.
5.	<input type="checkbox"/> Search string using keywords <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Subject headings <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of searches eg: author, journal title.

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<b>Please consider</b>	<b>Database searches: notes</b>
<p><i>Too little information?</i> Try different words. Think about different ways to approach the topic.</p> <p><i>Too much information?</i> Try limiting by language, date or other options offered by the database. Try adding more words to the search.</p>	
<b>Internet</b>	
<p><b>Tips</b> Use the help button on each search tool to find out about its unique features and the best way to construct your search. Some search tools allow the use of AND/OR functions, nesting and truncation. Use advanced search functions where available to make your search more specific Use search engines for finding specific information using uncommon words or if you wish to search a large number of websites Use subject directories for finding reviewed sites or if you want to browse through resources by category Use information gateways if you want information compiled by subject specialists Use several search tools for wider coverage</p>	
<b>Name of search tool</b>	<b>Type of search</b>
<p><b>1. Name:</b></p> <p><b>Type of search tool:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> search engine  <input type="checkbox"/> subject directory  <input type="checkbox"/> information gateway</p>	<p><b>Search string</b></p>
<p><b>2. Name:</b></p> <p><b>Type of search tool:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> search engine  <input type="checkbox"/> subject directory  <input type="checkbox"/> information gateway</p>	<p><b>Search string</b></p>
<p><b>3. Name:</b></p> <p><b>Type of search tool:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> search engine  <input type="checkbox"/> subject directory  <input type="checkbox"/> information gateway</p>	<p><b>Search string</b></p>
<b>Please consider</b>	<b>Internet search: notes</b>
<p><i>Too little information?</i> Try another type of search tool. Try different words. Think about different ways to approach the topic.</p> <p><i>Too much information?</i> Try limiting by language, date or other options offered by the search tool. Try adding more words to the search. Try using more specific words</p>	
<b>Experts</b>	
<p>Use experts as additional sources of information.</p> <p>Prepare by thoroughly researching the topic beforehand.</p>	<p><i>List people who are expert in this area and their contact details</i></p>
<b>Need Help?</b>	
<p>Check  <a href="http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/contacts/subjectcontacts.html">http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/contacts/subjectcontacts.html</a>          for the name of your Liaison Librarian</p>	<p><b>Sten Christensen</b>          email: <a href="mailto:s.christensen@library.usyd.edu.au">s.christensen@library.usyd.edu.au</a>          phone: 9351 3190</p>