

# Research plan

## 1. What information do I need?

### What are the concepts/ ideas/ themes that make up the elements of this topic?

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

**First Concept:**

**Second Concept:**

**Third Concept:**

*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.*

## 3. Selecting and using sources of information

### Library Catalogue: textbooks, atlases, specialist texts, dictionaries . . . .

Tips	Type of search
Enter author surname first: Smith, F or organisation name	<p><i>(select appropriate types below)</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Write down words to use below</i></span></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Author
Leave out "A", "An" or "The" at the start of a title. Type words in exact order.	<input type="checkbox"/> Title
Use * as the 'truncation symbol' to search for alternate word endings eg pharma* for pharmacology, pharmaceutical etc Two words together are searched as a phrase eg veterinary radiography Use and/or to combine concepts.	<input type="checkbox"/> Keyword
Use Library of Congress Subject Headings. Do some test searches to find appropriate subject headings. <i>Too little information?</i> Think broadly about your topic when searching the catalogue. <i>Too much information?</i> Look at the table of contents and indexes of books to see if they contain the specific information you require.	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject

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## Databases

### Tips

Use the help button on each database to find out about its unique features and the best way to construct your search.  
 CAB has more information relating to agriculturally important animals and Medline more on domestic species and clinical material.  
 Check MIMS, Biological Abstracts and Medline for pharmacology information.

### Keyword searching:

Uses search strings to link words eg: (koala\$ OR Phascolarctos cinereus) AND (NSW OR New South Wales) AND chlamydia\$  
 - use synonyms to describe each concept, link with the word OR eg: (koala\$ OR Phascolarctos cinereus)  
 - 'nest' each concept in parentheses. eg: (NSW or New South Wales)  
 - use the appropriate truncation symbol for the specific database eg: \$, \* , ? eg: chlamydia\$  
 - 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

### Subject searching

Uses the specific index or thesaurus terms particular to the database eg: *Behavior, Animal* in Medline  
 Use the help information for instructions on subject searching as each database varies in its structure  
 A subject heading will draw together all articles on a subject avoiding the use of large numbers of synonyms.  
 You can use a keyword search to find an excellent article on your topic then analyse the subject headings associated with it.

Name of database	Type of search
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> Search string using keywords  <input type="checkbox"/> Subject headings  <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of searches eg: author, journal title.
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> Search string using keywords  <input type="checkbox"/> Subject headings  <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of searches eg: author, journal title.
3.	<input type="checkbox"/> Search string using keywords  <input type="checkbox"/> Subject headings  <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of searches eg: author, journal title.
<b>Please consider</b>  <i>Too little information?</i> Try different words. Think about different ways to approach the topic.  <i>Too much information?</i> Try limiting by language, date or other options offered by the database. Try adding more words to the search.	<b>Database searches: notes</b>

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Internet	
<p><b>Tips</b></p> <p>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            Use <a href="http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/VEIN/search/searchindex.html">http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/VEIN/search/searchindex.html</a> for a listing of relevant search tools</p>	
Name of search tool	Type of search
<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>	Search string
<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>	Search string
<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>	Search string
Please consider	Internet search: notes
<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>	
NOTES	
<p><b>Need Help?</b>            Contact Caroline Regan            Acting Liaison Librarian –            Information Technologies            Madsen Library            9351 6456  <a href="mailto:c.regan@library.usyd.edu.au">c.regan@library.usyd.edu.au</a></p>	