



Systematic Search for Literature Review

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Workshop Objectives

- What is Literature Review?
- How to Develop a Search Strategy?
- What are important Information Resources in your field?

Literature review

- Literature review is the process of **searching, retrieving & analyzing** what has been already known and published about a particular topic by accredited scholars and researchers.

Two Important Objectives of LR:

1. **Information Seeking:** the ability to scan the literature efficiently, using manual or computerized methods, to identify a set of useful articles and books.
2. **Critical appraisal:** the ability to apply principles of analysis to identify unbiased and valid studies.

Steps of Literature Review

- **Problem formulation & Keyword extraction:** Specify the topic or field you want to search about and extract its main concepts as keywords.
- **Literature search:** Using the keyword specified in step one, we will search all the relevant available resources.
- **Paper evaluation:** Appraise the found literature & select those valid ones.

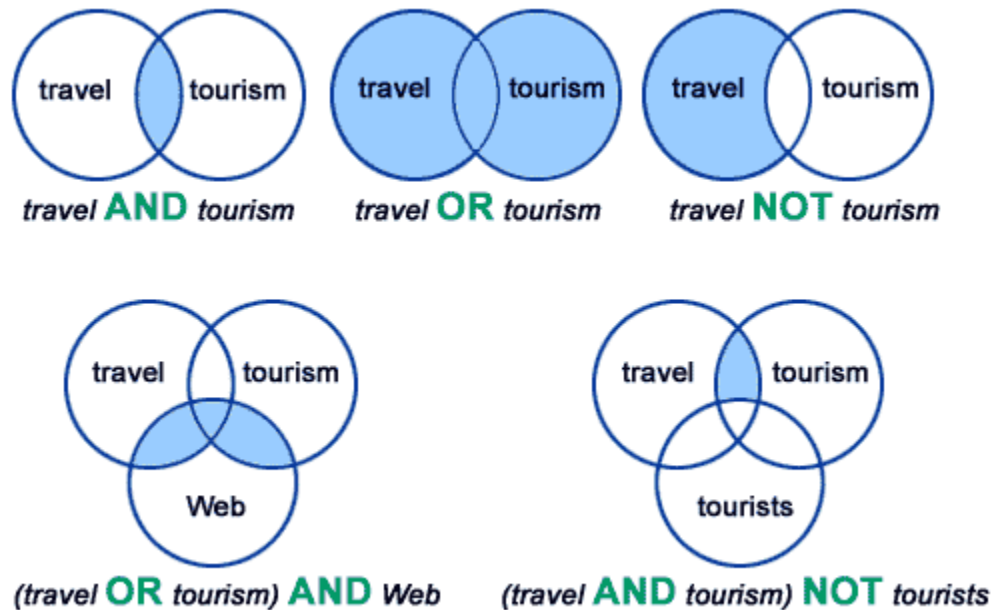
Web Search Strategies



Search strategies we recommended:

1. Formulate the search question and its scope
2. Identify the important concepts within the question
3. Identify search terms to describe those concepts
4. Consider synonyms and variations of those terms
5. Prepare your search logic

Boolean Operators



Search Recommendation 1

- **Recommendation:** Recognize and distinguish at least 2 to 3 concepts in query
- **Example:** “diabetes mellitus”, “Sensory neuropathy”, biguanide*, treatment OR therapy
- **Why important:** triangulating on multiple query concepts, narrows and targets results, generally by more than 100 to 1000

Search Recommendation 2

- **Recommendation:** Put each concept in a parenthesis
- **Example:** (“diabetes mellitus”), (“Sensory neuropathy”), (biguanide*), (treatment **OR** therapy)
- **Why important:** simple way to ensure the search engine evaluate your query the way you want, from left to right

Search Recommendation 3

- **Recommendation:** Use 6 to 8 words in query
- **Example:** diabetes, mellitus, Sensory, neuropathy, treatment, biguanide
- **Why important:** more keywords chosen at appropriate level, can reduce the universe of possible documents returned by 99%

Search Recommendation 4

- **Recommendation:** Use nouns or objects as query keywords
- **Example:** diabetes
- **Why important:** actions(verbs), modifiers(adjectives, and adverbs), and conjunctions are either “thrown away” by search engines or too variable to be useful.

Search Recommendation 5

- **Recommendation:** Try to pick up singular and pleural versions of the nons
- **Example:** biguanide OR biguanides
- **Why important:** use asterisk wildcard. The wildcard tell the search engine to match all characters after it, preserving keyword slots and increasing coverage by 50% or more.

Search Recommendation 6

- **Recommendation:** Use synonyms via the OR operator
- **Example:** treatment **OR** therapy
- **Why important:** Cover the likely different ways a concept can be described.
Generally avoid Or in other cases

Search Recommendation 7

- **Recommendation:** Combine keywords into phrases where possible
- **Example:** “diabetes mellitus”
- **Why important:** Use quotes to denote phrases. Phrases restrict results to exact matches, narrows results by many times

Search Recommendation 8

- **Recommendation:** Link concepts with the AND operator
- **Example:** (“sensory neuropathy”) AND (“diabetes mellitus”) AND (biguanide*) AND (treatment **OR** therapy)
- **Why important:** **AND** glues the query together

Search Recommendation 9

- **Recommendation:** Order concepts with main subject first(Put Your Main Concept First)
- **Example:** (“sensory neuropathy”) (“diabetes mellitus”) (biguanide*) (treatment **OR** therapy)
- **Why important:** Put main subject first. Engines tend to rank documents more highly that match first terms or phrases evaluated.

Search Recommendation 10

- **Recommendation:** Refine your search if necessary
- **Why important:**
 - ❖ Many sites offer a “Refine search” option so you can modify your search term
 - ❖ Some have a “more like this” option
 - ❖ Or go BACK to the search box to change your query

Information Resources



Electronic Journals & Collection

- Elsevier Science Direct
- Emerald
- Wiley Blackwell
- Springer
- Oxford University Press
- ProQuest
- Ebsco

Emerald

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Elsevier Science Direct

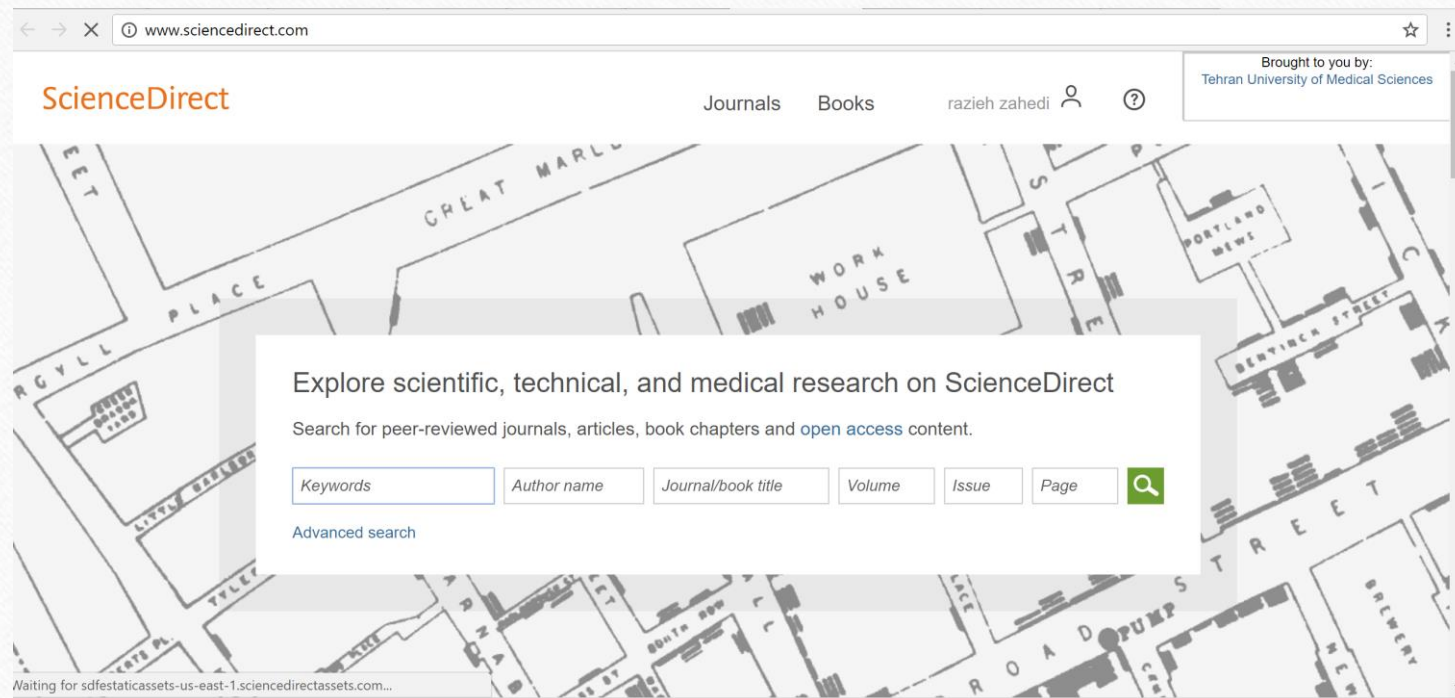
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Computer Science	Environmental Science	Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutical Science	Decision Sciences
Earth and Planetary Sciences	Immunology and Microbiology	Veterinary Science and Veterinary Medicine	Economics, Econometrics and Finance
Energy	Neuroscience	-	Psychology
Engineering	-	-	Social Sciences
Materials Science	-	-	-
Mathematics	-	-	-
Physics and Astronomy	-	-	-

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Quick Search



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