Keyword Worksheet

Through the SLU Library website - [http://www.stlawu.edu/library/](http://www.stlawu.edu/library/) you have access to millions of articles from magazines, newspapers, and journals. All with just the click of a mouse!

This worksheet will help you narrow your research topic and create a set of keywords to use when searching the ODY & Launders Library’s databases.

**Why Use the Library’s Databases?**

* Trusted information from published newspapers, magazines, and journals.
* Free access for SLU students, faculty, and staff!
* Just doing a Google search will not always bring up the scholarly information you need!

*********************************************************************************************

**Thinking About Your Topic**

Your topic is the sum of its parts: It is made up of what you need to know to write your paper or prepare your presentation - places, people, times, locations, events, the relationships, opinions, experiment, results, statistics, the history, etc...

**What is the main topic you are researching?** 

Example: What is the effect of pollution on global warming

**How do you narrow it down? List some of the small pieces that make up your topic.**

Example: pollution, global warming, effect

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What are some keywords, phrases, synonyms, or concepts that might help you find information?**

Examples: global warming, climate change, pollution, air pollution, greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide, emissions, sustainability, renewable energy, implication, effect

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Putting keywords together**

Use Boolean Operators (AND/OR/NOT) to broaden or narrow your search.

- **AND**—will narrow a search. All search terms must be in the record.
- **OR**—will broaden a search. Either or both terms must appear in the record.
- **NOT**—will narrow a search. The term following “not” won’t appear in a record.

**Other search tips:**

- Use quotes “ ” to keep words together as a phrase (“learning disabilities”)
- Use the asterisk * to find alternate endings to words (child* would retrieve child, children, children’s, childhood, etc.)
Sample searches based on example keywords

Questions?
Contact Gwen Cunningham, Science Librarian
315-229-5405
gcunningham@stlawu.edu
Or just stop by my office in Launders Science Library