

Useful Academic Tips for Searching for Literature

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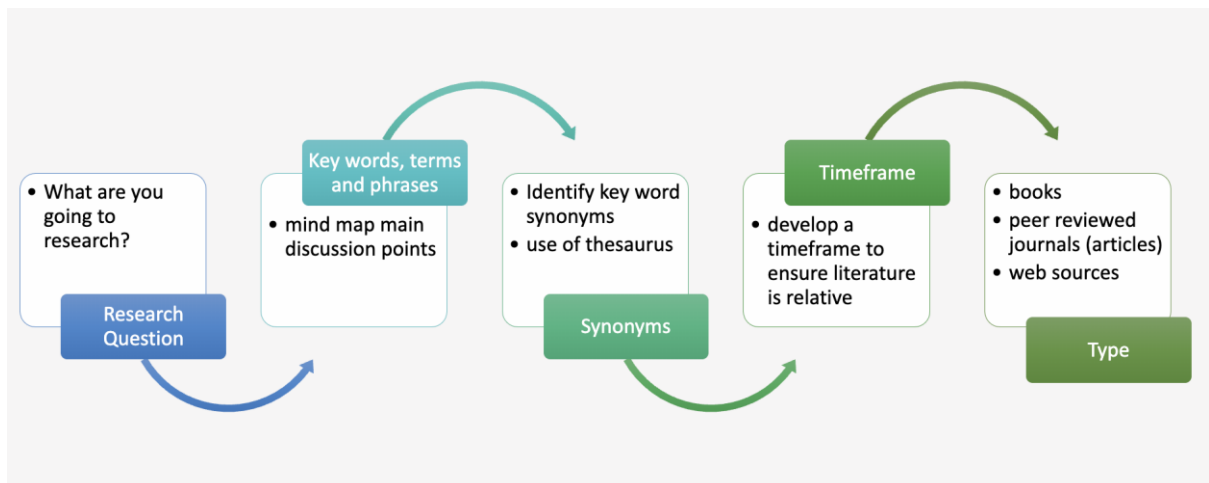
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When searching for literature, you need to understand how to use data search engines effectively so that when you search for literature, you are sourcing articles that are relevant.

Here are some tips for searching literature effectively:

Develop a Search Strategy:

Before you begin your literature search, you need to think about what it is you are going to research and develop a strategy for finding literature. The sequence of actions below is advised before you begin searching for literature.



Using Search limiters and Boolean referencing (making searching FUN!):

1. Search using [boolean operators](#) and [search limiters](#).
These can either narrow your search or broaden your search.
2. Understand Boolean searches – when you search for literature, you need to be specific in what you are searching for. Using Boolean methods can narrow or widen your searches. Watch the videos included within the link [here](#) and use the advanced search functions on EBSCO.

Being ruthless with what you delve into!

3. Read the abstract – consider immediately if the content is appropriate, use the CRAAP index (Currency, Relevant, Authority, Accuracy, and Purpose). More info on that [here](#).
 - a. If the abstract shows that the article is not suitable, move onto the next.
 - b. If it is suitable, save it and add to reference list.

Thematic Analysis:

4. When reading relevant articles, organise your ideas as you read - Think about using thinking maps /post it notes to organise your ideas into themes as you read. [Thinking maps info here](#). There is a good segment about organising ideas for lit review with post its in this presentation [here](#).
5. Follow the 'golden thread' - if you find an interesting citation in an article, find the author in the reference list of article and find the author's article that the citation derives from. Follow the correct thread, don't go off on a 'reading tangent' (speaking from experience here!). Consider CRAAP again when following the thread.

Be critical:

6. Think critically - e.g. if you find a supporting statement about the benefits of flipped pedagogy and you want to use as a citation, consider the need for an opposing statement and citation (this shows that you are not accepting all that you read but are challenging the ideas of others to form your own opinions and statements).

Get organised – reference list

7. Start your reference list now - begin creating a reference list from the word 'go' (saves a lot of time later). You can usually copy the citation in EBSCO directly; select 'Harvard Referencing' and copy and paste into an excel doc. You can filter alphabetically later and then paste into word.

Hope that you find this useful - happy searching! :)