Steps			Search					
1	Write a clear topic statement:							
2	Select the keywords from your topic statement. Usually 2 or 3 keywords give better results.	Keyword A						
		Keyword B						
		Keyword C						
3	Based on the keywords you identified above, select synonyms, related terms, and alternate forms for each of these keywords.	Keyword A Synonyms						
		Keyword B Synonyms						
		Keyword C Synonyms						
4	Search Strategy 1: Formulate a search strategy using Boolean operators ('AND' / 'OR') to connect your keywords. • Combine synonyms with OR. • Combine different ideas/concepts with AND.	Keyword A Synonyms	OR	OR				
		AND						
		Keyword B Synonyms	OR	OR				
		AND						
		Keyword C Synonyms	OR	OR				
	Search Strategy 2: Formulate a search strategy using Boolean operators ('AND' / 'OR') along with your keywords. • Combine synonyms with OR. • Combine different ideas/concepts with AND.	Keyword A Synonyms	OR	OR				
		AND						
		Keyword B Synonyms	OR	OR				
		AND						
		Keyword C Synonyms	OR	OR				
5	Select appropriate search tools (i.e. library catalogue, an article database, etc.).							
6	Search	Take your search strategies from above and insert them in the databases you selected.						
7	Review results and revise search.	Not enough results? Revise your search terms and/or remove one of your keywords to broaden your results. Too many results? Use limits (scholarly journals, or by publishing year, etc) and/or add another keyword to narrow your results.						

HINT: Once you have found an appropriate source (i.e. book, journal article, etc...) for your research topic, remember to search its bibliography and locate those references at the Library

Steps	Example								
Write a clear topic statement:	Discuss the prevalence and use of marijuana by Canadian teenagers								
Select the keywords from your topic statement.	Keyword A	marijuana							
Usually 2 or 3 keywords	Keyword B	teenagers							
give better results.	Keyword C	Canadian							
Based on the keywords you identified above, select synonyms, related terms,	Keyword A Synonyms	teens, adolescents, adolescence, youth, young people							
and alternate forms for each of these keywords.	Keyword B Synonyms	cannabis, pot, weed, dope							
	Keyword C Synonyms	Canada, Canadians, British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario etc							
Search Strategy 1: Formulate a search strategy using Boolean operators	Keyword A Synonyms	teens	OR	teenagers	OR	adolescents			
('AND' / 'OR') to connect your keywords. • Combine synonyms with	AND Keyword B Synonyms	marijuana	OR	cannabis	OR	pot			
OR.	AND	T	1	T					
Combine different ideas/concepts with AND .	Keyword C Synonyms	Canada	OR	Canadians	OR	Alberta			
Search Strategy 2: Formulate a search strategy	Keyword A Synonyms	adolescents	OR	young people	OR	youth			
using Boolean operators ('AND' / 'OR') along with	AND								
your keywords.	Keyword B Synonyms	marijuana	OR	pot	OR	weed			
∘ Combine synonyms with	AND								
OR. • Combine different ideas/concepts with AND.	Keyword C Synonyms	British Columbia	OR	Canada	OR	Ontario			
Select appropriate search tools (i.e. library catalogue,	library catalogue			article database: Science Direct					
an article database, etc.).	article database: Academic Search Complete				Google??				
Search	Take your search strategies from above and insert them in the databases you selected.								
Review results and revise search.	Not enough results? Revise your search terms and/or remove one of your keywords to broaden your results.								
	Too many results? Use limits (scholarly journals, or by publishing year, etc) and/or add another keyword to narrow your results.								







