Basic Search Plan

These steps guide you through the process of developing and refining a literature search.

1: Topic or Issue (What is the purpose of the search?)

2: Think conceptually
   2a: Identify major search concepts; enter each **down the grid**
   2b: Identify any synonyms/related terms **across the grid**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2a Major concept</th>
<th>Synonyms / related terms</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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The next step is using Boolean logic to specify relationships between concepts

3) Boolean logic:
   3a Connect major concepts with **AND** down the grid
   3b Connect synonyms with **OR** across the grid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Organize your terms on a Logic Grid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AND</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AND</td>
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4) Identify relevant databases
The next step is to think about what you want to include or exclude from your results. Keep in mind that each database has somewhat different limiters.

5) **Identify relevant limiters (or filters)**
   i.e.: publication date, peer-reviewed journals; age group, gender, methodology, literature review, etc.

Specify where terms should be searched

6) **Select Fields**
   i.e.: no field (anywhere), Abstract, Subject, Title, etc.

7) **Carry out a preliminary search.**
   Identify and record other potentially useful search terms to use these in subsequent searches

8) **Evaluate the search process based on the relevancy of results; refine, revise as needed.**