

THE RESEARCH PROCESS

Technology

1. Develop a search strategy for your technology topic.

Write down your topic in a sentence or two (*ex. I want to look at using PDA technology in the medical field.*): _____

What are the keywords for your topic (*ex. PDA, Medical*): _____

What are some other ways to say your topic (synonyms) (*ex. Personal Digital Assistant, handheld*):

Combine your search terms using boolean logic (AND, OR, NOT):
ex. (PDA OR Personal Digital Assistant OR handheld) AND Medical

2. Search and Refine

Conduct your search in one of the databases. Which database did you choose and why? _____

Find some citations for articles that relate to your topic. How many did you find? _____

Look at the keywords used in the citations. Can you add any words to your search? Are there better words to try than the ones you used?

3. Evaluating your search results

Find one primary research article on your topic. Write down the complete citation for the article below.

How would you get the full-text of this article? _____

What are some of the keywords or subjects are listed in the record for this article? You might use them as search terms.

What were the best search terms and why? _____
