

Developing Research Skills

Cook Library's guide to easy and successful research

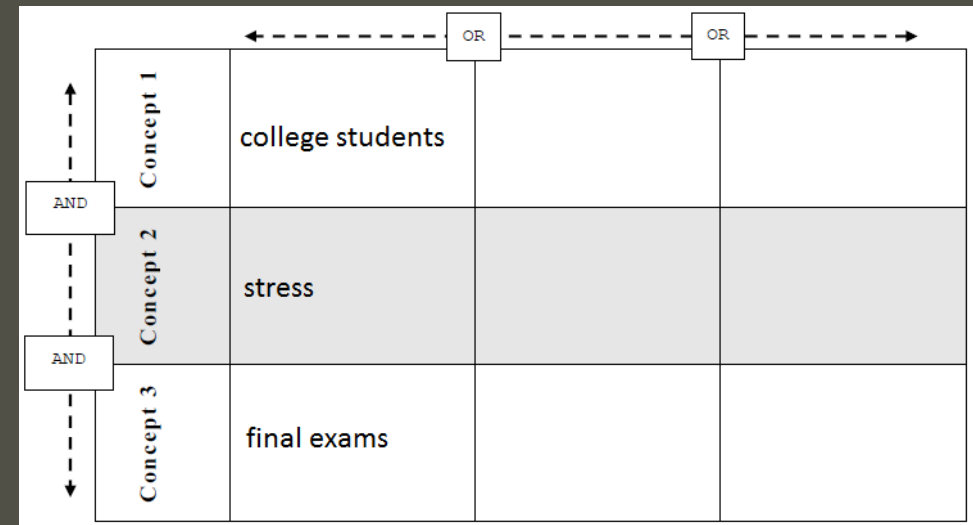
Pre-Search your topic

- Write your topic on your worksheet
- Go to Google.com
- Search for background information on your topic
- Write down specific words and terms you can use
- What is interesting about this topic?
 - Revise your topic to focus on research that will interest you

What is your research topic?

- Find up to three different “concepts” in your revised topic
- Write them in the boxes on the left side of the chart
- Example:

How college students experience stress during final exams



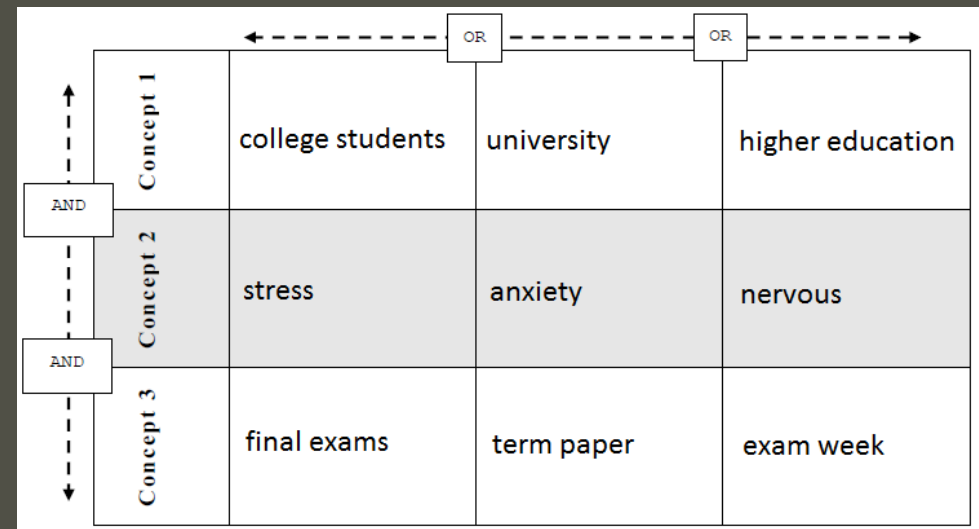
What keywords will you use?

- List two similar words or phrases for each concept
- Think about the articles you want to find...

What vocabulary will they use?

- Example:

How college students experience stress during final exams



You're ready to start your research

- Go to <http://cooklibrary.towson.edu/>
- Use the search tips at the bottom of your worksheet:
 - AND
 - OR
 - ""
 - *

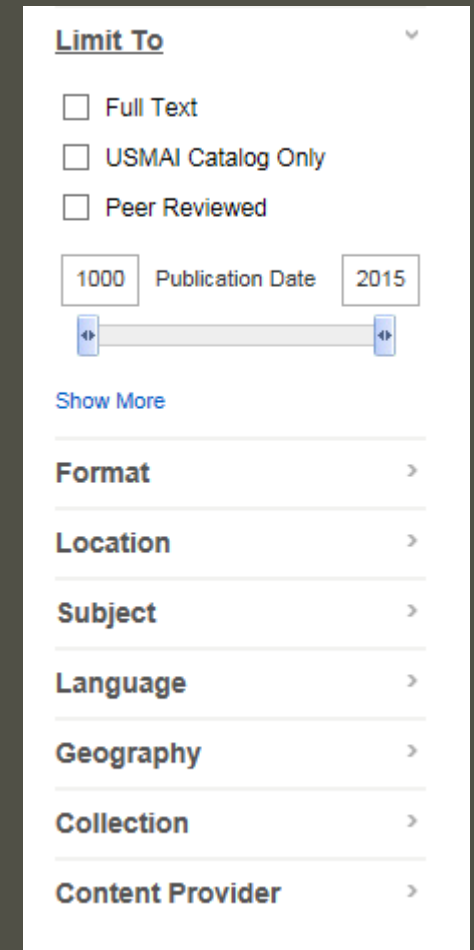
○ Example:

College OR university OR "higher education" AND students AND anxiety AND "final exam*"

Narrow your Results

- Consider searching only “peer reviewed” articles

Publication date	How recent should your sources be?
Format	Do you want to look at books? Magazine articles?
Subject	Which subject terms are related to your topic?
Geography	Which countries are relevant to your topic?



The screenshot shows a search filter menu titled "Limit To" with a dropdown arrow. It contains several options and filters:

- Full Text
- USMAI Catalog Only
- Peer Reviewed
- 1000 Publication Date 2015
- A horizontal range slider with arrows at both ends, positioned between 1000 and 2015.
- [Show More](#)
- Format** >
- Location** >
- Subject** >
- Language** >
- Geography** >
- Collection** >
- Content Provider** >

What do you like?

- Pick the most relevant article for your topic
- Look at the list of “subject terms”
- Write down any related terms for more research

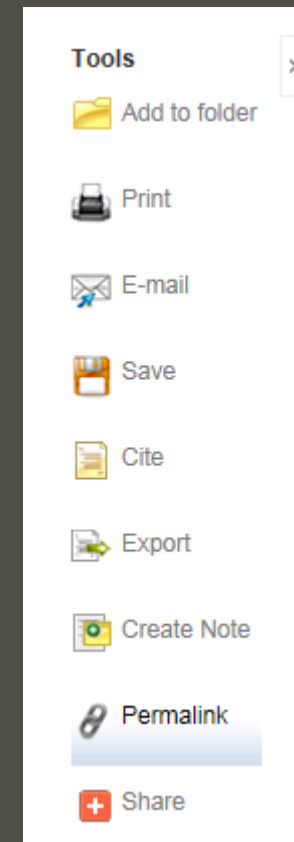
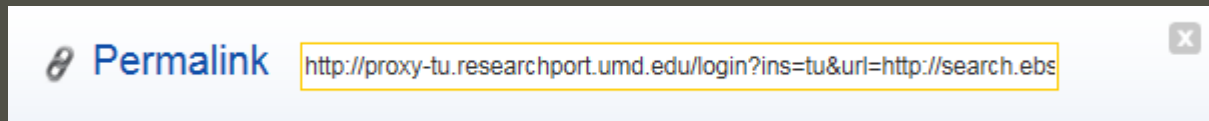
Use the CRAAP Test* to review sources

Currency	Is it current enough for my topic?
Relevance	Is the information important for my topic?
Authority	Is it from a trusted publication?
Accuracy	What is the evidence?
Purpose	Why was the information published?

*The CRAAP acronym and descriptions are from Meriam Library at California State University Chico. CRAAP Test from the Meriam Library website.

Save your favorite search results

- Click on “permalink” – this is a permanent link to your article
- Paste the permalinks in a document or email for easy access



Save your search page!

- Click “share”
- Copy and paste the link
- Save it to a computer or send it to your email

The screenshot shows a search results page for the term "education". The search bar contains "(education)" and the results are displayed as "Search Results: 1 - 20 of 54,906,967". The first result is "Education : agreement between the United States of America and the European Economic Community, signed at Vienna, June 21, 2006, with annex." The share menu is open, showing options to "Add to folder", "Create an alert", and "Use Permalink". The "Use Permalink" option is highlighted with a red box, and the persistent link to the search is displayed as "http://proxy-tu.researchport.umd.edu/login?ir". A red arrow points to the "Share" button in the top right corner of the search results area.

(education) Select a Field (optional) Search Clear ?

AND Select a Field (optional)

AND Select a Field (optional) + -

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History ▶

Search Results: 1 - 20 of 54,906,967 Relevance Page Options Share

1. **Education : agreement between the United States of America and the European Economic Community, signed at Vienna, June 21, 2006, with annex.**

By: United States, author.. [Washington, D.C.] : U.S. Dept. of State, [2013?] OCLC 1111111111
Language: English, Database: USMAI Catalog

Subjects: Education, Higher -- Law and legislation -- United States; Educational institutions -- Law and legislation -- United States; Economic Community countries; Vocational education -- Law and legislation -- United States; and legislation -- European Economic Community countries; Educational exchange -- Law and legislation -- European Economic Community countries

Request Item Check Online Availability

Location
Towson University Online Government Documents S 9.10:07

Show More (9)

Add to folder:
Results (1-20)
Add search to folder: (education)

Create an alert:
E-mail Alert RSS Feed

Use Permalink:
Persistent link to search (copy & paste)
http://proxy-tu.researchport.umd.edu/login?ir

Alert, Save