TRU Library's Developing Effective Search Strategies

Steps	Search Strategy					
Write a clear topic statement:						
Select the keywords from your topic statement. *Usually 2 or 3 keywords give better results.*	**Keyword A**					
	Keyword B					
	Keyword C					
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					
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**	
Select appropriate search tools (i.e. library catalogue, an article database, etc.).						
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.*					

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	Search Strategy						
Write a clear topic statement:	*Discuss the prevalence and use of marijuana by Canadian teenagers*						
Select the keywords from your topic statement. *Usually 2 or 3 keywords give better results.*	**Keyword A**	*marijuana*					
	Keyword B	*teenagers*					
	Keyword C	*Canadian*					
Based on the keywords you identified above, select synonyms, related terms, and alternate forms for each of these keywords.	**Keyword A Synonyms**	*teens, adolescents, adolescence, youth, young people*					
	Keyword B Synonyms	*cannabis, pot, weed, reefer, dope, doobie, sticky icky…*					
	Keyword C Synonyms	*Canada, Canadians, British Columbia, Alberta, etc…*					
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**	*teens*	**OR**	*teenagers*	**OR**	*adolescents*	
	AND						
	Keyword B Synonyms	*marijuana*	**OR**	*cannabis*	**OR**	*pot*	
	AND						
	Keyword C Synonyms	*Canada*	**OR**	*Canadians*	**OR**	*Alberta*	
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**	*adolescents*	**OR**	*young people*	**OR**	*youth*	
	AND						
	Keyword B Synonyms	*marijuana*	**OR**	*pot*	**OR**	*weed*	
	AND						
	Keyword C Synonyms	*British Columbia*	**OR**	*Canada*	**OR**	*Ontario*	
Select appropriate search tools (i.e. library catalogue, an article database, etc.).	*TRU library catalogue article database: CBCA Current Events* *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.*						

This is what **search strategy #1** will look like in an article database, such as Academic Search Complete.