

Effective Searching with Keywords and Synonyms

Name: _____

This assignment is designed to help you better identify terms to use in searching for articles and other information in library databases for your research paper.

Instructions:

1. Briefly describe your research topic:
2. Brainstorm for words that would help you find articles on your research topic. Group the keywords in boxes below by meaning or relationship. For example, if I was writing a paper about problems predicting violent weather, I could use the following keywords. The terms, “hurricane,” “tropical storms” and “tornadoes” are similar and I would put them in the first box. I would put “predict,” “forecast,” in the next box. Finally, I’d put “accuracy,” “problems,” and “reliability” in the last box. Now do the same for your research topic.

--	--	--

2. Now find an article that covers your research topic, using Academic Search Premier (ASP). Connect to the UF Libraries web page (www.uflib.ufl.edu), and connect to ASP. To get there, click on the link for “Articles” then the link for “Project Starters.” You will see a link to ASP. Using words that you wrote in the boxes above, find one article that you can use for your research paper.

Write the full citation to the article in the space below in MLA or APA format (depending on the field).

3. Print out article, and read it. Circle in ink or highlight words in the article that could be useful search terms to locate more articles on the topic. Attach it to this worksheet.