BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASE SEARCH PLANNER

This worksheet is designed to help you develop a search strategy for a bibliographic database.

1. State your topic as completely as you can (in the form of a sentence or title):

_____

2. Think about your topic and circle the two or three most important concepts in the topic statement above. Write each concept you circled in the first space of each line below. Then list synonymous or related terms next to it on the same line, if applicable. To find related terms use: your knowledge of the subject, or a thesaurus (e.g. Biosis Previews Search Guide, Medical Subject Headings, CAB Thesaurus, Thesaurus of Psychological Terms, etc.), or scavenge terms from relevant citations that you have already found. Use truncation whenever appropriate, e.g. "ecolog*" retrieves ecology or ecological.

First   _____ OR _____ OR _____ OR _____
Concept

    Connector (AND OR NOT)   _____

Second   _____ OR _____ OR _____ OR _____
Concept

    Connector (AND OR NOT)   _____

Third   _____ OR _____ OR _____ OR _____
Concept

3. Insert a connector between the concepts to combine them into a search statement (AND OR NOT):

4. Indicate any limits that are helpful with your search:

Limit by date _____

Limit by field (e.g. title; subject headings; etc.) _____

Other limits _____

5. List the best indexes/ databases for your topic: _____

_____