

# Search Strategy Keywords Worksheet



## 1. Describe your search topic, underlining the main keywords or phrases

Example: *The early history of schools for orphans in Australia.*

## 2. Choose your search terms

Use the connecting word 'AND' to join your different keywords or phrases as shown below.

Search Strategy	Example
1st keyword:	<i>orphans</i>
AND	AND
2nd keyword:	<i>schools</i>
AND	AND
3rd keyword:	<i>history</i>

## 3. Consider ways to modify your search if needed

Can you think of:

- **related terms?** (you may want to check subject based dictionaries and encyclopaedias)
- **broader terms?** (if you find too few results)
- **truncating your terms?** (broadening your search to find word variations) eg. *school\** will find *school* or *schools* or *schooling* etc. (note: truncation symbols can vary in different databases)
- **spelling variations?**
- **narrower terms?** (if you find too many results)

Use the connecting word 'OR' to join your alternative keywords or phrases as shown below.

Example	Alternative Keywords
<i>orphans</i>	OR <i>orphan children</i> OR <i>children</i> OR <i>boys</i> OR <i>girls</i>
AND	
<i>schools</i>	OR <i>orphanages</i> OR <i>institutions</i> OR <i>homes</i> OR <i>care</i>
AND	
<i>history</i>	OR <i>colonial</i> OR <i>nineteenth century</i> OR <i>19th century</i> OR <i>1800s</i>

Now describe your topic:

Think of your search terms:

Keywords	Alternative Keywords
AND	
AND	