Updated 05/25 (KO)

EXAMPLE RESEARCH JOURNAL! THIS WILL HELP YOU FILL OUR YOUR OWN RESEARCH JOURNAL!

Graduate Student ESL Library Research Journal

To prepare for the Library Research Lesson in your class, **complete Part 1 of this worksheet only**. You will complete Part 2 during library day. As you complete this worksheet, you will prepare your search strategy in order to find sources for your upcoming Research Proposal and ultimately your Secondary Research Paper assignments.

If you need help getting started, check the ESL Graduate Student Library Guide for information about library services and resources for ESL graduate students.

Part 1: Preparing Your Search Strategy

Complete this section of the worksheet before the Library Research Lesson.

Finding Keywords

1. **You have a research question. Type or write it in the box below, then underline or highlight the most important keywords or keyword phrases.**

Research Question or Thesis Statement
Is there a connection between neighborhood air pollution and asthma rates?

2. Look at the keywords you underlined above and think of synonyms (words that mean almost the same thing) and other related terms. **Combine your keywords and synonyms/related terms using the table below**. For an example, look at the example worksheet.

Keyword(s) #1: Neighborhood

Synonyms	**Example Keyword**
Synonym #1	District
Synonym #2	Community
Synonym #3	Region

Keyword(s) #2: Air Pollution

Synonyms	Example Keyword
Synonym #1	Contaminated Air
Synonym #2	Exhaust
Synonym #3	Particulate pollution

Keyword(s) #3: Asthma

Synonyms	Example Keyword
Synonym #1	Respiratory Illness
Synonym #2	Childhood Asthma
Synonym #3	Bronchial Asthma

Create combinations of keywords

Make combinations of keywords from 2-3 of the tables above to create search terms to use in the library databases. Look at the example worksheet for help.

1. Neighborhood AND “Air Pollution” AND Asthma
2. Neighborhood AND Exhaust AND “Respiratory Illness”
3. District AND “Particulate Pollution” AND (Asthma OR Bronchial Asthma)

Subject Librarians

Answer the questions below using the information that you found doing the Online Library Tutorial.

1. **If you have specific research questions about your paper topic, who is the subject librarian you can contact? (**Please note that sometimes a library rather than an individual person will be listed for certain subject areas.)**
   Erin Simon (Public Health)
2. **What subject library do they work in?**
   Social Science, Health, and Education Library
3. **What is their email address?**

   eesimon@illinois.edu

Part 2: Searching in Library Databases

You will complete this part of the worksheet during class. **You do not have to fill this part out before coming to class.**

Database Searching

You are ready to search in a database now! You'll want to start on the "Databases A-Z and by Subject" page on the library website and select the appropriate subject for your research topic. Remember that getting there and selecting the best subject for your field was part of the online tutorial!

Select a subject from the drop-down and then click on the blue Search button. Next, try one of the Best Bets or another database in the subject list.

Once you're in the database you can use different combinations of your search terms from the table above to construct different searches in the search boxes. Try different combinations of words or change the word order. If you have a two-word phrase, enclose them in quotation marks so that the database will search for them in that order. If you need any help, please ask one of the librarians teaching this session!

Answer the questions below as you search the library databases to help you remember what you did later.

1. **What library database did you use?**

   Academic Search Ultimate

2. **What combinations of keywords did you type into the search bar? Which ones gave you the best search results?**

   Neighborhood AND "Air Pollution" AND Asthma – Best Search Results

   Neighborhood AND Exhaust AND "Respiratory Illness"

   District AND "Air pollution" AND asthma

3. **What limits or refining did you use (usually found on the left side of the screen; examples: peer-reviewed, published in the last 5 years, journal articles, etc…)?**

   Limit by peer-reviewed, journal articles, and published in the last 5 years

4. **Write down the citation for the most helpful article(s) you found below:**

   Khan, R. N., Saporito, A. F., Zenon, J., Goodman, L., & Zelikoff, J. T. (2024). Traffic-related air pollution in marginalized neighborhoods: a community perspective. *Inhalation Toxicology*, *36*(5), 343–354. https://doi.org/10.1080/08958378.2024.2331259

5. **Did you run into any issues or further questions while searching? For example, was there a combination of keywords that did not work?**