Successful search strategies

1. Establish the main topics or themes in your research question
2. Brainstorm a list of keywords/synonyms for each of the main topics or themes
3. Develop a search strategy by combining your keywords
4. Use Boolean operators (AND/OR/NOT) to refine your searching
5. Use a search plan to build and improve your search

Tips for managing your library research

- Allocate a realistic amount of time for literature searching (fine-tune your strategy, track down full-text items, time to re-review and reassess)
- A research journal/table/spreadsheet can be useful when starting out – keywords, search strategies, notes about databases
- Layer your search strategies...useful to work from the general to the specific
- Record full bibliographic details of what you find, when and where you found it (eg. Websites – URLs and date accessed)
- Consider using a reference management program – such as Endnote

Library Guides – Science Subject Areas http://ecu.au.libguides.com/
Research Information - http://ecu.au.libguides.com/research
Endnote - http://ecu.au.libguides.com/endnote
Science Databases

**Web of Science** – A large database that covers science and other subjects and allows cited reference and topic searching.

**Scopus** - A large multi-disciplinary citation database indexing peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings, patents and websites

**ACS (American Chemical Society)** - Provides a searchable interface to the journals published by the American Chemical Society. ECU provides full text access to some of these journals

**Greenfile** - Searchable database of information covering all aspects of human impact on the environment.

**Science Direct** - A database for scientific research that covers the life, medical, technical, social and physical sciences

**ACM Digital Library** - Published by the Association for Computing Machinery, provides the fulltext of 21 ACM core journals and co-sponsored journal titles and proceedings.

**Lecture Notes in Computer Science** - A Volume series which publishes workshop and conference proceedings as well as monographs in computer science and its subfields.

**Proquest Central** - International database that provides specific and comprehensive coverage

**LISA: Library and information science abstracts** - an international abstracting and indexing tool designed for library professionals and other information specialists.

**IEEE** - Provides access to all 120+ Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) journals, 600 annual conference proceedings and 875 technical standards in fulltext.

**Access Science** - is an authoritative and dynamic online resource that contains incisively written, high-quality reference material that covers all major scientific disciplines. CSIRO Publishing Journals -

**Gartner** - leading provider of research and analysis on the global IT industry.

**Inspec** - Inspec is a leading bibliographic database providing access to the world's scientific literature in the following areas: electrical engineering, electronics, physics, control engineering, information technology, communications, computers, computing and manufacturing and production engineering.

**REEF** – The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Province Database (REEF), produced by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, is a bibliographic online database that indexes and abstracts both published material and grey literature about the Great Barrier Reef Region.

**Compendex** – Content Related areas: Applied Physics, including Optics, Bioengineering and Biotechnology, Food Science and Technology, Materials Science, Instrumentation, including Medical Devices and Nanotechnology.

Contact the Library

Email: library@ecu.edu.au
Phone: 6304 5525
Website: www.library.ecu.edu.au