**My Research question**

1. **Use PICO or another model to formulate your more focused question.**

You don’t have to use every section, it’s a framework.

E.G. Does Adrenaline (I)improve survival (O) for those in cardiac arrest (P)?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Population** | **Intervention** | **Comparison** | **Outcome** |
|  |  |  |  |

1. Identify broader terms, narrower terms, alternative expressions, different spellings

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Population** | **Intervention** | **Comparison** | **Outcome** |
|  |  |  |  |

**2. Pick out the possible keywords.** Include any useful **truncation, phrases or Subject**   
 headings.

1. **Use Boolean to combine your keywords effectively to construct a search.**

N.B. You may not need to use all the PICO headings, for example you may find the outcome from the results rather than pre-defining it.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Concept 1. (P)**  **AND** | OR | OR |  |
| **Concept 2 (I)**  **AND** | OR | OR |  |
| **Concept 3 (C)** | OR | OR |  |

You can run your search using the grid or break it up into parts which you then combine in ***Search History.*** E.g. 1. Search for all the Population Keywords (OR). 2. search for all the Intervention keywords (OR). 3. Combine the 2 (AND).

**4. Record your search history**

Record the search string (combination of keywords from the previous box).   
Remember to save the search using **Search history** in the databases.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Search string** | **Database** | **No. of results** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**5. Identify and apply your Inclusion/exclusion criteria.**

These can be country, date, age group, gender, type of research – depending on your discipline and topic. Some can be applied using filters in the databases as part of the previous search, others will require a quick check of the **Abstracts** to identify relevance.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Inclusion** | **Exclusion** |

Don’t forget to record your results after applying them.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Search string** | **Database** | **Exclusion** | **No. of relevant results** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**6. Save and Record your key papers**

Organise folders or use Refworks or something similar to store your results.

Start to summarise your key results using a table like this or a critical reading grid.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference** | **Purpose** | **Methods** | **Key findings/main points** | **Implications for my study** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |