# **INFORMATION SEEKING PLAN**

**The information seeking plan contains questions and tasks which guide you through the steps of information seeking and help you recognize central information resources in your academic field. Follow the links to study the corresponding pages in Library Tutorial.**

**Name and e-mail address of each group member:**

**Discipline or academic field:**

**OBJECTIVES**Choose 3 objectives for the group! Choose the ones that you think are especially important for you to learn while you work on the information seeking plan.

1. I can tell the difference between everyday information and academic information.  
2. I can identify key concepts related to my topic and turn them into search terms.  
3. I am able to combine search terms into search statements.  
4. I am familiar with the publication culture in my academic field.  
5. I know how to search for scholarly articles.  
6. I know which databases are central in my academic field.  
7. I can evaluate and refine search results.  
8. I understand the concept of RefWorks (or other reference managing software).  
9. I understand why using references is important and I am familiar with academic ethics.

**PART A**

**1. DEFINING THE TOPIC AND FINDING BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

[Information resources for different needs](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/library-tutorial/topic-and-search-terms/information-resources-for-different-needs-overview)  
[Identify key concepts](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/library-tutorial/topic-and-search-terms/identify-key-concepts)

Choose a scholarly topic of your interest  
OR  
Choose a focus research area of your academic field in JYU.

When you seek background information on your topic, what information resources do you use (which databases)? Name the information resources (at least 2). The aim is to get an overall impression of the topic. Write down any essential concepts and terms you find for later use.

What are the most interesting aspects of the topic? What do you wish to find out about your topic? Formulate your research question(s), for example one main question and two additional questions! Keep in mind the general form of research questions.

**2. SEARCH TERMS AND SEARCH STATEMENTS**

[Search terms and search strategies](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/library-tutorial/topic-and-search-terms/search-term-and-strategy/search-term-and-strategy)

Create a mind map! Use paper and pen or a mind map tool, such as <https://bubbl.us/>.

The idea is to use the mind map to identify the different aspects of your topic. Put your topic in the middle of the mind map. Around the topic, write down each different aspect or point of view. List related concepts and synonyms under each point of view.

1. **Start the mind map with the basic concepts, terms or key words**. You can use dictionaries, for example MOT Dictionaries.

2. **Find subject terms and add them to your mind map**. Where did you find the subject terms? Name the resources, for example YSO and a thesaurus from a central database of your field. Help: [Resources by Subject](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/resources-by-subject) -pages.

[Search statements](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/library-tutorial/topic-and-search-terms/creating-a-search-statement)

Combine your search terms into at least two different search statements.Use operators, truncation and phrase marks. Keep your research question(s) in mind and focus on the central aspects of the topic.

**3. RESEARCH METHODS AND DATA**

[Research methods and data  
Research data and copyright  
Open science](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/library-tutorial/finding-sources/open-online-resources)

Where can you find information on research methods? **Name 2–3 resources!**

Where can you find archived research data? **Name 2–3 resources!** Please refer to Library Tutorial and make sure you understand what research data means.

**PART B**

**4. FINDING SOURCES**

[Publication culture on different disciplines](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/library-tutorial/finding-sources/publication-culture)

Which **publication types** are favored in your academic field? List 2–3 publication types starting with the most essential one. This determines what kind of sources you are looking for (articles, books, conference papers).

[Finding books](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/library-tutorial/finding-sources/books)[Finding scholarly journals and articles](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/library-tutorial/finding-sources/journals-articles)[Open science](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/library-tutorial/finding-sources/open-online-resources)

What databases do you use to find sources? **Name 1–3 central information resources for each of the publication types**, again starting with the most essential one**.** Check the [Resources by Subject](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/resources-by-subject) -pages. If the resource contains solely open access material, tag it with “OA”.

**Seek information** inone of the databases for your most essential publication type.Use the search statements you created earlier. What database did you use? Which search statement worked best?

How useful is the database for you? Why?

[Choosing scholarly and reliable sources](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/library-tutorial/finding-sources/reliable-sources)

Name 3–5 ways of evaluating sources: how can you identify scholarly and reliable sources?

**5. REFINING SEARCH RESULTS**

[Refining results](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/library-tutorial/finding-sources/refining-search-results)

List strategies for refining your search results in case you get

a) irrelevant results:

b) too many results:

c) too few results:

**6. CITING AND MANAGING REFERENCES**

[Academic ethics and copyright](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/library-tutorial/citing-and-managing-references/academic-ethics)[Avoiding academic fraud](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/library-tutorial/citing-and-managing-references/avoiding-academic-fraud)[Citing and managing references](https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/kirjasto/en/library-tutorial/citing-and-managing-references/citing-and-managing)

In case of a scholarly article, what information do you need to give in the bibliography (=list of references)? The name of the author etc.

Give an example of an article in the bibliography – write out the reference as you would if you were creating a list of references.

How are you going to manage your references? Why?

OBJECTIVES

Did you meet your goals? Give yourselves a grade 1–5 (1=Didn’t learn anything, 5= learned a lot)!

Give feedback on the course and on the information seeking plan form, please! What kind of things facilitated learning for you, what made it more challenging? How would you improve Library Tutorial?