SLWK 313 Paper 1 Search Plan

Fill out a search plan for paper 1 to locate exactly what you need – and to find out if your topic is "doable" – not too broad, too narrow, or too obscure.

1. Identify a social problem

2. Identify keywords (and synonyms) relevant to the Paper 1 assignment. Keyword examples:
   - prevalence OR incidence OR statistics OR epidemiology OR frequency OR occurrence
   - demographics OR race OR ethnic* OR age OR gender OR socioeconomic status
   - risk factors OR predict* OR correlates
   - Protective factors

   NOTE: (the asterisk * will return articles with the terms ethnic, ethnicity; predict, predictor, predictors)

3. Combine the problem/ population with keywords relevant to Paper 1 (examples below demonstrate how searches should look).
   - Link each major concept with AND to focus your results.
   - Link synonyms with OR to broaden results and capture similar relevant terms.

You can specify that your terms be searched in the Abstract, Title, or Subject field.

NOTE: After you search, limit results to Peer-Reviewed Journals and by Publication Date based on assignment criteria.
Map out your terms below following any of the examples on the handout or SLWK 313 Guide.

| Concept 1 | drug abuse OR drug addiction OR substance abuse | Select a Field (optional) |
| Concept 2 | AND teen* OR youth OR adoles* | Select a Field (optional) |
| Concept 3 | AND risk factors OR predict* | Select a Field (optional) |

4 Identify relevant databases. Keep in mind that you have access to multiple databases and some will be more useful than others will; a list is available on the course guide.
5 Plan a search strategy
   a) If you get a lot of results, narrow your searching by trying the Abstract, Title, or Subject field
   b) Limit to Peer-Reviewed articles only
   c) Limit date to last 5 years, 8-10 if necessary (check with your professor)

6 Preliminary evaluation of articles
   a) Scan titles, abstracts for relevance; make sure it is useful
   b) Revise strategy if necessary:
      Select different keywords
      Search in a different field
      Try another database

7 Retrieve & Evaluate articles
   a. Read articles to look for needed information
   b. Highlight and take notes using the Matrix for Paper 1

8 Check authoritative government sources for definitions, incidence, prevalence, etc.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: Although you don’t need intervention articles yet, it’s a good idea to see if you can locate a few now.

refugees

AND intervention or treatment or therapy or program or case study

Begin looking for a memoir now (remember, the topic needs to be doable – meaning you need to identify relevant content on your topic for all 3 assignments.

After following all the guidelines and suggestions located on the SLWK 313 Course Guide, if you still have questions about finding resources, email Nita Bryant nbryant@vcu.edu