

Task Analysis for Literature Search

Search strategies using a database	
1) Search on an academic database such as PsycINFO using keyword combinations relevant to topic. A first step would be using combinations of keywords from articles you have already read.	
2) Search on an academic database using the names of authors who have published on the topic.	
3) Using an academic database, search specific journals by topic and author(s) names. Go to the journal's website and search using keywords and author(s) name(s).	
4) Search on Google Scholar using combinations of keywords and/or the authors associated with topic.	
5) Subscribe to a search service or use the search alert from your college library. Sign up for alerts on newly published articles by topic.	
6) If you have time, set up an alert on multiple search services several months in advance so you will receive notices of currently published articles on your topic.	
Search strategies related to author(s)	
1) Search academic databases or Google Scholar using author(s) name to find other articles on the topic.	
2) Check to see if author(s) have a website or page on college/university website. Their most current publications may be listed there.	
3) Search for webinars the author may have given on the topic. They may cite current research.	
Search strategies related to a specific article	
1) Search academic databases and Google Scholar using keywords in title and those listed with the abstract.	
2) Search for the article through PsycINFO and make a note of the subsequently published articles that have cited it.	
3) If there is a seminal article on the topic, find it through PsycINFO and make a note of the articles that have cited it.	
4) As you read the article, take note of any articles cited that pertain to the points of interest to you.	
5) Look through article references for other authors who have published articles on the topic. Follow search procedures for these authors and articles.	
6) As you identify potential articles through your search, repeat any of the strategies listed above as needed.	

Search strategies related to topic(s)	
1) Search databases using combinations of keywords related to the topic to develop a list of authors who write frequently on the topic. Note that they may be the second author on an article written by a graduate student.	
2) Search for webinars on the topic on the Internet. You may need to evaluate the organization for its commitment to evidence-based practices.	
3) If needed for an historical overview, search databases with unlimited time period (in years). This might help you find seminal articles or a timeline of articles that would show developments over time.	
4) Identify seminal article on the topic and review articles that have cited it.	
Search strategies related to topic(s) in sources other than peer-reviewed journals	
1) Search using keywords to find organizations related to the topic. For example, the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (CASANA) has information and webinars on their site.	
2) Large professional organizations like the American Academy of Pediatrics or the American Psychological Association may have published position statements, whitepapers, or links to resources on their websites.	
3) Some professional organizations such as New York Association for Behavior Analysis (NYSABA) have archived presentations from past conferences available to members at no cost.	
4) Search through the websites of BCBA approved ACE providers, such as FoxyLearning, Behavior Development Solutions, or ABAskills for webinars or resources related to the topic.	