

Task Analysis for Literature Search

| Search strategies using a database | |
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| 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. | |

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| 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. | |