

## Building a Search String

Whether you're searching CAB Abstracts, another library database such as Web of Science, or Google Scholar, building a search string will help you refine your search results and spend less time looking for articles.

**Step 1:** Identify your research question:

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**Step 2:** Circle the 3 or 4 key words/phrases in your research question above.

**Step 3:** In the table below, list the key words/phrases you circled above. Next, consider any words that might be related to the key words you selected. Write down these synonyms next to each key word in the table.

<u>Key Word or Phrase</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

**Step 4:** In the space below, write a search string using these synonyms and keywords. Remember to join key words with their synonyms using "OR", and join key words with "AND".

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**Step 5:** Use this string to search databases or Google Scholar!