

Search Strategy Keywords Worksheet (tips for History related topics)

Example topic:

Changing images of motherhood in Australia since the 1930s.

Keywords or phrases:

Search Strategy Keywords	Possible Alternative Terms for each Keyword
<i>mother*</i>	OR <i>maternal</i> OR <i>parent*</i> OR <i>famil*</i> OR <i>women</i>
AND	
<i>image*</i>	OR <i>represent*</i> OR <i>portr*</i> OR <i>depict*</i> OR <i>stereotyp*</i>
AND	
<i>histor*</i>	OR <i>century</i> OR <i>decade*</i> OR <i>19*</i> OR <i>post-war</i>

When developing a search strategy, think about:

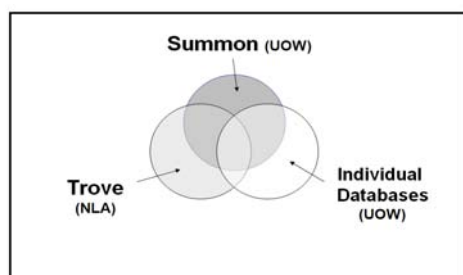
- alternative keywords or alternative concepts (including older/historical terms or phrases used to describe issues or events at the time they were happening (eg. “*nursing mothers*”)
- different spellings
- a truncation symbol to broaden your results eg. *histor** finds *history*, *histories*, *historical* etc. (note: truncation symbols can vary in different databases)
- broader terms if you find only a few results
- narrower terms if you find too many results
- not including the term ‘history’ at all - instead try limiting by publication date range to look for older items written at the time (eg. books published before 1950)

What are my keywords or phrases for my own topic?

Search Strategy Keywords	Possible Alternative Terms for each Keyword
	OR
AND	
	OR
AND	
	OR

I’ve got my keywords. Now where should I try searching?

Try each of these complementary resources (depending on how much information you need/how many relevant search results you may find in each one):



Use the links to these and other History related resources from the Historical Primary Sources research guide:

[Library home page](#) > [Guides](#) > [By topic](#) > [Historical Primary Sources](#)