SEARCH PLANNER – SCIENCE LITERATURE DATABASES

This worksheet is designed to help you develop a search strategy for a bibliographic database.

State your topic as completely as you can (in the form of a sentence or title):

_____

1) Think about your topic.
2) Circle the two or three most important concepts in the topic statement above.
3) Write each concept you circled in the first space of each line below.
4) List synonymous or related terms next to it on the same line, if applicable.
   > To find related terms use: your knowledge of the subject, and/or a thesaurus
   > (e.g. Biosis Previews Search Guide, Medical Subject Headings, CAB Thesaurus,
   > Thesaurus of Psychological Terms, etc.), and/ or scavenge terms from relevant
   > citations that you have already found. Use truncation whenever appropriate
   > and allowed, e.g. "ecolog*" retrieves ecology or ecological. Select the
   > appropriate field if the default is not the best choice.

5) Insert an operator (AND/OR/NOT) between the concepts to combine them into a search statement

6) Indicate which limits are helpful with your search and list them here:

   ☐   Limit by date:

   ☐   Limit by field (e.g. title; subject headings; etc.):

   ☐   Other limits:

7) List the best indexes/databases for your topic: