**Need more help?**

**COMM 422**

**Research Plan Worksheet**

* Library Guide (http://libguides.uww.edu/comm422)
* Barbara Bren (email brenb@uww.edu, phone 262.472.5521)
* Reference Desk (email refdesk@uww.edu, phone 262.472.1032)
* Ask a Librarian email or 24/7 chat (http://library.uww.edu/get-help/ask-a-librarian)

**Research Process: Spend some time thinking about your research plan, and amend this as you go along.**

1. Write down your topic. This may be a broad sentence or question:

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1. Identify important words or concepts from 1. Concepts can be words or phrases, and the number of concepts will depend on your topic:

Concept 1 Concept 2 Concept 3 Concept 4

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1. For each concept, come up with a list of related words or phrases. Not everyone uses the same terminology when talking about a subject. These may not be exact synonyms. More possibilities may be found as you review search results.

Concept 1 Concept 2 Concept 3 Concept 4

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1. Where will you look? The Library has many resources for finding scholarly journal articles on a variety of subjects. Below are a few recommended databases containing information on communication topics. You can access these from the Library’s webpage (http://library.uww.edu/databases-by-title) or your course research guide. If you are off campus, you’ll need to login with your UWW Net-ID.

\_\_\_\_ ABI/INFORM Complete (ProQuest)

\_\_\_\_ Academic Search Complete (EBSCOhost)

\_\_\_\_ Business Source Complete (EBSCOhost)

\_\_\_\_ Communication & Mass Media Complete

\_\_\_\_ JSTOR Arts & Sciences I, II, III, & IV Collection

\_\_\_\_ PsycARTICLES & PsycINFO (EBSCOhost)

\_\_\_\_ Sage Premier Journals Online

\_\_\_\_ ScienceDirect

\_\_\_\_ SocINDEX with Full Text (EBSCOhost)

\_\_\_\_ Sociological Abstracts (ProQuest

\_\_\_\_ Web of Science (ISI)

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1. How will you formulate your search? Combine search words in ways to make your search broader or narrower.

Tips: In many databases, use commands in UPPERCASE.

**AND** between search terms will narrow results.

**interpersonal AND conflict** finds articles with both search terms, giving you fewer results.

**OR** between search terms will expand results

**youth OR children** finds articles with either search term, giving you more results.

**Quotes** find an exact phrase **"communicative competence"**

**Asterisks** (\*) to find variations of a word **communicat\*** finds communicate, communication, communicative…

Limit results by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Search(es): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Examine your search results:

* Use available limits to focus your results, *e.g*., select peer-reviewed journal articles or specify a date range.
* Consider subject headings, abstracts, and titles in your search results for words or phrases you may want to incorporate into your search.
* Select the most relevant, useful articles in your results. Print, email, or save your selected results. In some databases you can create an account to save articles and even searches.

1. Search for sources used in useful articles. If these are journal articles, search for the journal title using the Journal search (under “Find” on the Library home page, or http://library.uww.edu/find/journals).