Building a Search Strategy using Mesh

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Poor Search Strategies = Misinformation
Systematic Searching

1. Key Concepts And Intent
2. Terms
3. Strategy
4. Select Appropriate Resource
5. Execute
6. Evaluate
7. Display Results
8. Obtain Documents
What is a Search Strategy?

- The “formula” that you will use in your database search to retrieve articles that you require.
- In evidence-based searching
  - PICO
    - Problem/Patient/Population
    - Intervention
    - Comparative Intervention (if any)
    - Outcome

Not every search is evidence-based, so PICO not always appropriate
Step 1: Define your Research Topic
How Many Concepts?

- Jogging
- Pigs
- Good???????????????
Step 2: Define Terms
List Synonyms, Acronyms, Abbreviations, etc. (MeSH)

pig(s)(let)  
swine  
boar(s)  
hog(s)  
sow(s)  
suidae  
gilt(s)  
jog  
jogging  
run  
running  
sprint(ing)  
dart(ing)  
dash(ing)
Step 3: Build Strategy
(Incorporate Boolean AND, OR)
Strategy: Using Boolean Logic
Back to Search Strategy Template

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Jogging gives pigs shaplier legs, but good diet helps heart more.

ANDREW, JOHN
WALL STREET JOURNAL, v104, Section 2, p.25(W)
p33(E) JUNE 16 1981
Edition: Tuesday
DESCRIPTORS: Swine-Research; Jogging – Physiological Aspects; Running – Physiological Aspects; Diet – Physiological Aspects; Heart Disease
Step 9: Obtain Documents

Here is One of the Articles:

Jogging Gives Pigs Shapelier Legs, But Good Diet Helps Hearts More

By John Andrew

Having given their all for science, the jogging pigs of Arizona are, alas, no more. And that’s bad news all round.

Last year, a passel of pigs enjoyed a brief fling in the limelight by taking part in a research study on the relative importance of diet and exercise in averting heart disease ...
Lessons from Designing a Search Strategy?

• Lessons from Designing a Search Strategy?
• Logical
• Step by Step (Sequential)
  – Pearl Growing
  • Start small and grow your search
  – Lawn Mowing
  • Start broadly and refine
• Thought
• Analysis
• Memorization? Only of the search sequence.