Nursing Literature Search Check List

☐ Select print and electronic resources and databases. Identify resources for your literature search by the subjects covered.

**KUMC Dykes Library Online Nursing Resources**
- CINAHL
- Cochrane Evidence Based Medicine
- PubMed
- ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source
- Web of Science – Science Citation Index
- Library catalog
- WorldCat

Connect to all of these resources from the Dykes Library homepage. Additional databases from Dykes Library are available at [http://library.kumc.edu/database-list.xml](http://library.kumc.edu/database-list.xml)

**Other Online Resources**
- Google Scholar (Scholar.google.com)
- Trip Database ([www.tripdatabase.com](http://www.tripdatabase.com))
- Relevant association and academic websites

☐ Determine what type of information to use
- **Primary** – Where original research is reported. It may be in the form of a journal article, case reports, meeting abstracts, conference reports, technical reports, etc.
- **Secondary** – Summaries of the original work.
- **Tertiary** – Sources that compile and analyze research. Examples include systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and practice guidelines.
- Explore resources in various formats including print publications, online resources, and experts (human beings) on the topic.

☐ Develop a strong search strategy
- Explore database search features and options. Contact a librarian for assistance using databases or identify help guides and tutorials available. Become familiar and comfortable using databases that focus on your topic.
- Use subject headings (Dictionary/Thesaurus preferred terms in the databases) when possible. Use keyword searches to supplement subject heading searches.
- Search concepts separately and then combine sets. This also enables the searcher to broaden or narrow the search more easily.
- Consider truncation, spellings, synonyms and differences of terms in various countries (ex. labor, labour; mad cow disease, BSE, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy)
- If one good article is located, look at the subject headings and references for more ideas to enhance the search strategy. Use related article search features in databases.
Comprehensiveness

- Identify all relevant subtopics you wish to cover within your broader topic.
- Identify contrasting perspectives addressing your topic.

Currency

- Consider currency requirements for your specific topic. If most of the initial publications still relevant to today's scholarship were published in 1987 you may be consider older items than a topic that is only now receiving scholarly attention.
- Keep in mind how information is updated. A website may have last been updated quite recently, but the content may be out of date.

Set up alerts to stay up to date

- Many databases and journals offer alerting services. Two databases that offer this service are CINAHL and PubMed.
- Have the table of contents and new articles on your topic emailed to you.

Consider information from other information sources

- Conference proceedings
- Government Reports
- Technical Reports
- Dissertations
- Newspaper Articles
- Web-Based/Internet Information

Contact your library liaison Julie Zimmerman (jzimmerman2@kumc.edu, 913-588-7443)

- Identify specialized resources for your topic.
- Ensure all relevant resources have been consulted.
- Review your search strategies.

Adapted from The Ohio State University John A. Prior Health Sciences Library
http://library.med ohio-state.edu/4851.cfm__7/10/2008.