**Literature Search Strategy Worksheet**

**Use this to define your search concepts**

1. What is your research topic? Write it in the box below.

2. Now underline the main keywords. **These are your search concepts.** Write them in the left-hand columns below (one per box).

3. Are there any other ways to describe your search concepts? List them in the right-hand columns along with any alternative word endings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search concept</th>
<th>Alternative terms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e.g. eyesight</td>
<td>eyesight OR vision OR acuity, etc. vision; visual: visually: vision-related, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>brassica OR superfood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Now decide what limits you want to put on your search (publication dates, age groups, geographical area etc.)

5. Is there anything you don’t want to include in your results?

6. Which sources are appropriate for your topic?

   Library databases  |  Other sources

Below are some tips for combining search concepts

**Truncation***: Placing an asterisk* after the main part of a word (the stem) will find all alternative endings
   e.g. optic* will find optic, optics, optical, optically, optician, optically-based, etc.

"Phrase Searching": Use "double quotation" marks to search terms as a phrase
   e.g. "macular degeneration"

**Combining techniques:**
   **Boolean operators**
   Use OR to enter alternative terms, e.g.:
   eyesight OR vision OR acuity
   This will increase the number of results
   Use AND to find results with all of your search terms, e.g.
   eyesight AND lutein
   This will decrease the number of results