Practice activity: Create a structured search

Create a structured search for an article you find on the health benefits of eating country food in Nunavut.

Step I: Start with these three key concepts

- Nunavut
- Country food
- Health

Step II: Find two synonyms for each key concept

Key concept	Synonyms
Nunavut	
Country food	
Health	

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Step III: Structure your search using brackets and OR

An example: Let's say that you want to explore the role of personal relationships in the care of patients with dementia.

Sample search with synonyms

Key concept	Synonyms	Structured search
Relationships	Friendships	(relationships OR friendships)
care	treatment	(care OR treatment)
dementia	Alzheimer's	(dementia OR Alzheimer's)

Now try your search with synonyms

Key concept	Synonyms	Structured search
Nunavut		
Country food		
Health		

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Step III: Modify your search using truncation (*)
Example for the topic “explore the role of personal relationships in the care of patients with dementia.”

Note: Truncation will work for some of your terms and not others.

Sample search with truncation

Key concept	Synonyms	Structured search
Relationships	Friendships	(relationship* OR friendship*)
Care	treatment	(care OR treatment*)
dementia	Alzheimer’s	(dementia OR Alzheimer’s)

Now try your search with truncation

Key concept	Synonyms	Structured search
Nunvaut		
Country food		
Health		

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Step IV: Modify your search using phrase searching ("phrase" or use of quotation marks)

Example for the topic "explore the role of personal relationships in the care of patients with dementia."

Notes

- A phrase is a key concept that has two or more words.
- Phrase searching will work for some of your terms and not others.

Sample search with phrase searching

Key concept	Synonyms	Structured search
Relationships	Friendships Personal relationships	("personal relationship*" OR friendship*)
care	Treatment Patient care	(treatment OR "patient care")
dementia	Alzheimer's	(dementia OR Alzheimer's)

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Now try your search with phrase searching

Key concept	Synonyms	Structured search
Nunavut		
Country food		
Health		

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