Preparing Your Search

STEP 1:

What do you want to find? State it:

For example: I want to find out who was the inventor of ice cream and when was it invented?

Step 2:

Identify keywords
Using your statement in Step 1,
underline the main concepts
(keywords).

For example: I want to find out who was the <u>inventor</u> of <u>ice cream</u> and when was it <u>invented</u>?

Step 3:

Synonyms List synonyms and variant word forms for each keyword.

For example:

<u>ice cream</u> – frozen dessert, ice milk <u>inventor</u> – discoverer, founder, creator <u>invented</u> – created, developed, originated

Step 4:

Try it out! It's kind of like math.

Combine your synonyms and keywords.

For example:

(ice cream or ice milk) and (inventor or discoverer) and (invented or created)

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Adapted from: Flanagan, Debbie (2004). *Preparing your search* http://www.learnwebskills.com/search/prepare.html