

INFORMATION SEEKING PLAN

NOTICE! This file is for **self-study** purposes. If you are taking the LIB1THP Systematic Information Seeking course, the plan is usually made in two parts, and the files can be found in each course's Moodle.

The tasks are answered based on the Library Tutor: some answers can be found directly, while others are more applied. Links to the Library Tutor are provided with the questions.

Information on author(s) of the plan

Name(s): _____

E-mail(s): _____

Academic discipline: _____

Choose 3 objectives that you think are especially important to learn. At the end plan, the achievement of the objectives is evaluated.

Note: If marking the option with an (X) is not possible, you can, for example, underline your goal.

- ☐ I can tell the difference between everyday information and academic information.
- ☐ I can identify key concepts related to my topic and turn them into search terms.
- ☐ I can combine search terms into search statements.
- ☐ I am familiar with the publication culture in my academic field.
- ☐ I know how to search for scholarly articles.
- ☐ I know which databases are central in my academic field.
- ☐ I can evaluate and refine search results
- ☐ I understand the concept of a reference managing software.
- ☐ I understand the meaning of referencing.

What kind of feelings or thoughts does this assignment bring out?

NOTE: There are a total of 5 sections (some word processing programs may leave blank pages in between).

1. Overview of the topic and finding search terms

Review the following sections from the Library Tutorial:

[What is scientific information?](#)

[Defining the topic](#)

Then, choose a topic you are researching (e.g., the subject of your thesis) and add the answers to the tasks below.

You can select a topic to practice with by exploring the research conducted at your faculty on the university's website.

Topic of choice:

What type of information do you need at this stage of your research?

What databases can you utilize for preliminary information searches? Mention at least 2.

Try to find a few preliminary sources that provide an overview of the topic.

What sources did you find?
(List the names of the
publications and authors
here. NOTE! No links.

Record the concepts found
in the sources here for the
search term assignment.

**Next, consider which perspectives you will focus on and what you want to ask about your topic.
Then formulate your research questions (main question and possible sub-questions).**

Research questions:

2. SEARCH TERMS AND SEARCH STATEMENTS

Review from the Library Tutorial:

[Search terms](#)

Additional information:

[Information seeking in different disciplines](#)

[AI Tools and information seeking](#)

Which dictionaries and thesauri can you use to come up with search terms?

How could you utilize AI tools, such as Copilot, to support information seeking?

Create a mind map or word list from the search terms and include it as an image/text.

Ensure that the mind map or list includes synonyms or alternative concepts.

You can create the mind map on paper or using a tool like [Mindmup](#). NOTE! If the image does not fit in the designated space, you can add it to the last page.

Mindmap/list (insert into the separate box on the next page →)

Review the section [Search statements](#) from the Library Tutorial.

Combine your search terms into at least 2 search statements and state what kind of information you are seeking with them. Ensure that you

1. Use the concepts gathered in the mind map/list.
2. Use synonyms/alternative concepts.
3. Use operators AND and OR, phrase marks “ ”, and truncation marks *.

NOTE! Simply combining two terms (e.g., emotions AND teaching) is **not** sufficient for this task. **The goal is to form search queries by combining multiple key terms** and their synonyms related to the topic.

The search statements will be tested in a later task.

EXAMPLE

Search statement 1

With this search statement I am seeking for information on...

**(“joint teaching” OR co-teach* OR teach* together)
AND
(includi* OR “integrated teaching”)**

experiences on teacher collaboration in integrated teaching

Search statement 1

With this search statement I am seeking for information on...

Search statement 2

With this search statement I am seeking for information on...

Other possible search statements (= if you wish to have feedback on more than one)

3. Seek information

Review section [Publication types and information seeking](#) from the Library Tutorial and answer the following task.

What are the most important publication types in your field of study? Mention 2-3, with the most important one first.

Read section [Choosing scholarly sources](#) from the Library Tutorial.

Mention 3-5 factors by which you can evaluate the scientific validity of a source.

What does peer-review mean?

Read section [How to find information on research methods](#) from the Library Tutorial.

Mention 2-3 databases or websites where you can find information on research methods:

Review the following sections from the Library Tutorial:

- [Articles, journals and databases](#)
- [How to find books](#)
- [Information seeking in different disciplines](#)

1. Name the most important scientific databases used in your field (1–3 items).

2. What other scientific databases can you use?

You previously identified the most important scientific databases used in your field (question 1). Now try the search statements you formulated in part A in one of those databases.

Which database did you use?

Please insert a **screenshot** of the search statement you used in the database (preferably of the entire page).

If the image does not fit into the designated space, add it to the last page. Any empty pages in between do not matter.

(If you need help with the image, send a message to → opetus@library.jyu.fi. Please specify whether you are making the addition on a computer or a phone and which word processing program you are using.)

Evaluate the usefulness of the database you have chosen for your topic. Did you find any good sources?

4. Refining search results

Read the following section from the Library Tutorial

- [Refining search results](#)

and tell, how could you modify your search / search phrase in the situations mentioned below.

If the search results are off-topic, I can...

If I get too many results, I can...

If I get very few results, I can...

Try one of the aforementioned search modification methods in your chosen database and describe how the search result changes (e.g., number of results, search precision, etc.).

Database you used:

Modified search statement and its impact on search results (quantity, accuracy, etc.)

5. SOURCES AND REFERENCES

Read the pages

- [How to cite](#)
- [Citation styles](#)
- [Research ethics](#)

What information from a scientific journal article must be mentioned in the reference list? (For example, the author's name, etc.)

Provide an example of how an article is cited in the reference list:

If you used an AI-tool to do this task, tell which one and how:

Why is it important to disclose the potential use of AI as part of research work?

Read section [Reference management software](#) from Library Tutorial.

Are you going to use a reference management program in your thesis? Which program and why?

Self-evaluation and feedback

Give yourself/your group a grade (1–5). Justify! Did you achieve your set goals? Where did you succeed, did something remain unclear?

If you would like to provide feedback on the information seeking plan or the Library Tutorial, it can be done via email at opetus@library.jyu.fi

**Great, now you have a ready-made information seeking plan
to refer back to as your work progresses.**

**If you need help with information seeking, you can contact
opetus@library.jyu.fi.**