Creating an effective search query

The research cycle
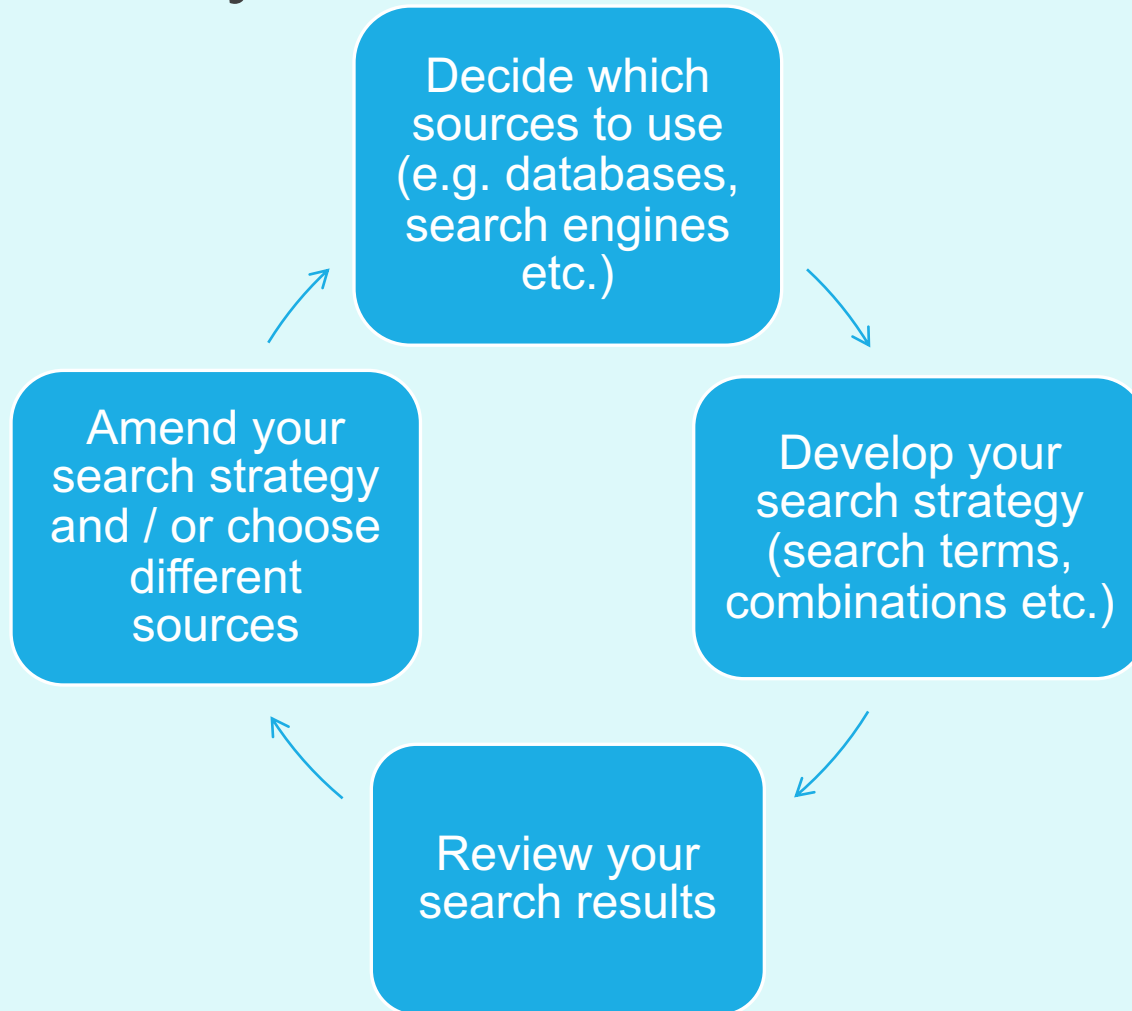
Decide which sources to use (e.g. databases, search engines etc.)

Develop your search strategy (search terms, combinations etc.)

Review your search results

Amend your search strategy and / or choose different sources

BODLEIAN i•Skills

Creating an effective search query

An example:

Human rights of child asylum seekers

Creating an effective search query

An example:

Human rights of child asylum seekers

Creating an effective search query

	Main concept				
Concept 1	Asylum seekers				
AND					
Concept 2	Child				
AND					
Concept 3	Human rights				

Asylum seekers AND child AND human rights

Creating an effective search query

	Main concept		Alternative 1		Alternative 2
Concept 1	Asylum seekers	OR	Refugees		
AND					
Concept 2	Child	OR	Minor	OR	Juvenile
AND					
Concept 3	Human rights				

(Asylum seekers OR refugees) AND (child OR minor
OR juvenile) AND human rights

Creating an effective search query

	Main concept		Alternative 1		Alternative 2
Concept 1	"Asylum seeker*"	OR	Refugee*		
AND					
Concept 2	Child*	OR	Minor?	OR	Juvenile*
AND					
Concept 3	"Human rights"				

("Asylum seeker*" OR refugee*) AND (child* OR minor? OR juvenile*) AND "human rights"

My search string

("Asylum seeker*" OR refugee*) AND (child* OR minor? OR juvenile*) AND "human rights"

Build your own search string