

From research question to search query using the framework DDO

PART 1: Identifying key elements and databases to search



Investigator

1. Fill in your name and research question.

Name:

Research question:



Neighbour

2. Fill in the table below based on the research question above:
 - a. Split the research question above into key elements using the framework DDO. If the research question is not clear, ask the writer of the research question to clarify or adapt their research question.
 - b. Search for each of the key elements how many hits it has in Google Scholar, Scopus and PubMed.

			Google Scholar	Scopus	PubMed
D	Domain:				
D	Determinant:				
O	Outcome:				
DDO	D AND D AND O				

3. Analyze the table above and use this to advise the investigator on key elements and search engine to use.

- a. Which of the key elements gives the most hits?

b. Which of the key elements will narrow down the search results?

c. Would you advise to keep all your key elements to be included in the search strategy? Explain your answer:

d. What are the differences between the different search engines, Google scholar, Scopus and PubMed? Name at least 1.

e. What could be an explanation for these differences? Name at least 1.

4. Which search engine(s) would you recommend finding literature for this topic? Explain your answer.



Investigator

5. Fill in the key elements you want to be part of the search query and the search engine you want to use for literature.

D	Domain:	
D	Determinant:	
O	Outcome:	
	Search Engine	

PART 2: Adding search terms and building a search query



Investigator

1. a. Note down relevant search terms for each of your key elements in the table below. Do not forget that some databases allow wildcards that could help you set up your search.

Domain: (tip: put OR between each synonym)

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AND

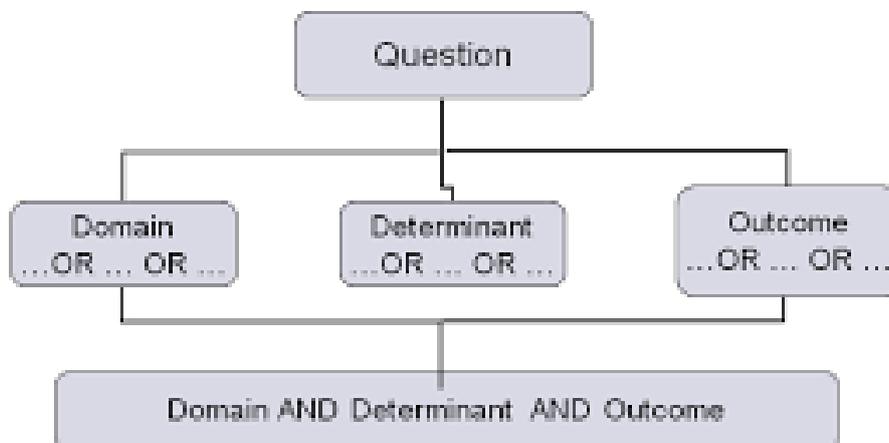
Determinant: (tip: put OR between each synonym)

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AND

Outcome (tip: put OR between each synonym)

b. Combine your search terms to a search string using the Boolean operators and the right syntax for your database.



2. Carry out your search in the search engine of your choice. Fill in the table below:
How many hits did you get? Is the literature relevant to your research questions?



Review committee

3. Do you have any suggestions how the writer of this search query can improve the search query? Think about: search terms, wildcards, right use of syntax and Boolean operators, key elements to add or remove.

- Adapt the search query accordingly and carry out the search again. Fill in the results in the table below
- Advise the investigator based on what you filled in in the table.

Results

Test	#hits	Relevant results? (score 0-5) (0= no relevant results, 5 only relevant results)	Are you happy with the results (explain)?
1			
2			