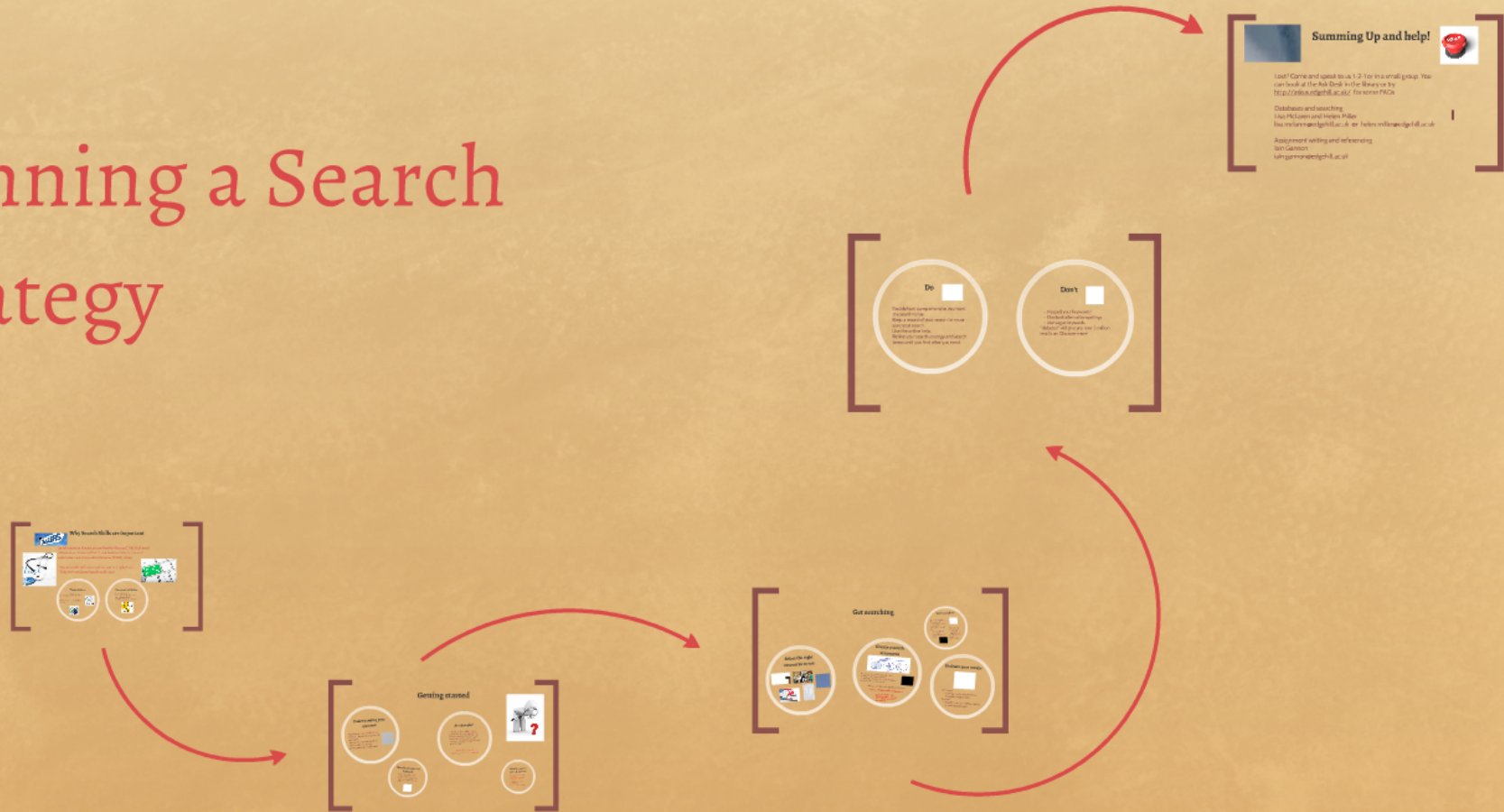
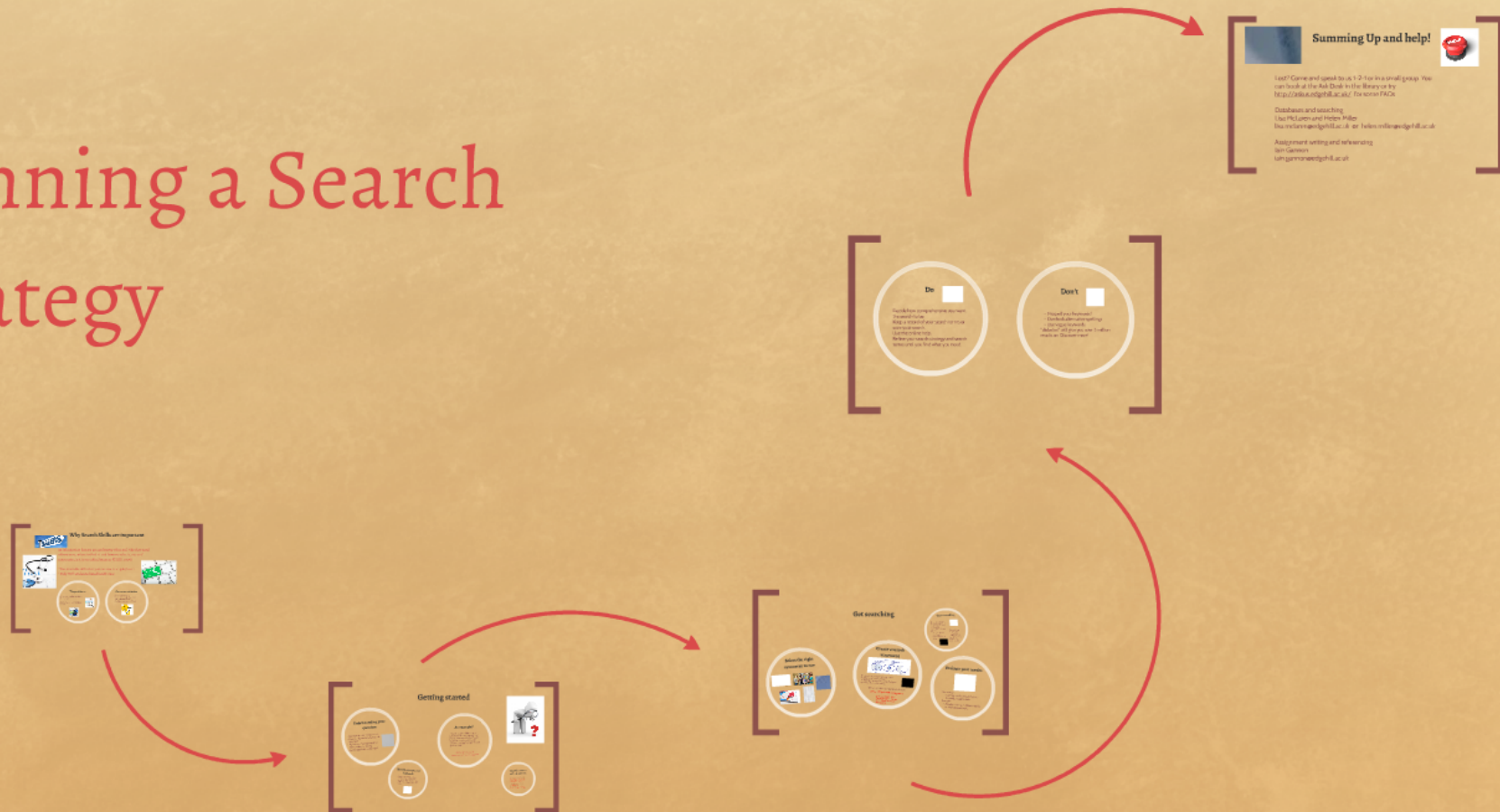


Planning a Search Strategy



Planning a Search Strategy





Why Search Skills are important

An information literate person knows when and why they need information, where to find it, and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an ethical manner (CILIP, 2004).

- * Transferrable skills that you can use in employment
- * Help with evidence-based health care



The problems

- Huge amount of information on the internet
- Getting to grips with the library resources



Common mistakes

- Using the wrong tool
- Lack of knowledge about how some databases work
- Not planning a search strategy



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Getting started

Understanding your question

- Are there any unfamiliar terms?
- Check a subject dictionary or ask your tutor
- Make sure you understand the terms before searching
- Define your information need



An example!

" If is often claimed that cultural factors influence our experience of pain. Is it important for health care practitioners to take culture into account when treating a patient with persistent pain? "

Keywords or Concepts:
culture, persistent pain, treatment



Identify concepts and keywords

- Pull out the main concepts or keywords from the question
- Ignore 'discuss' or 'analyse' - this only gives you guidance on how to write it.



Identify synonyms and related terms

For our essay question, how about:
race or ethnicity
"persistent pain" or "chronic pain"
"pain control" or treatment

UK vs US terms and spellings
Pneumonia vs. Pneumonia
Stomach vs. Intestinal terms
Heart attack or Myocardial infarction

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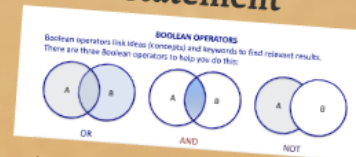
UK vs US terms and spellings
Paediatrics or Pediatrics
Formal vs informal terms
Heart attack or Myocardial infarction

Get searching

Select the right resources to use



Create a search statement



Use these three terms to put your search together - don't type a question!
Try truncation to save time e.g. child* will pick up child, children, childhood etc.



Our search statement could look like this:
culture AND pain AND management

(culture or ethnicity) AND
("persistent pain" or "chronic pain") AND (treatment or management)

Start searching

Choose your database. You might want Cinahl, Proquest or something more specialized? You might be informed by:

- Previous research you've done
- Work by a particular author



You might need the internet - check out the 'Online Research' tab in Your Foh-HSC Resources on Learning Edge.



Evaluate your results



Too many?

- You may need narrower terms / keywords or apply limits

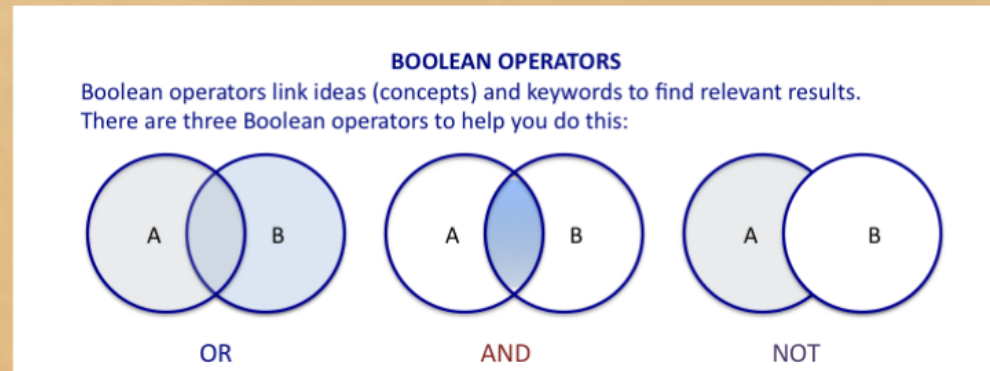
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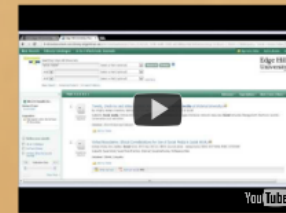
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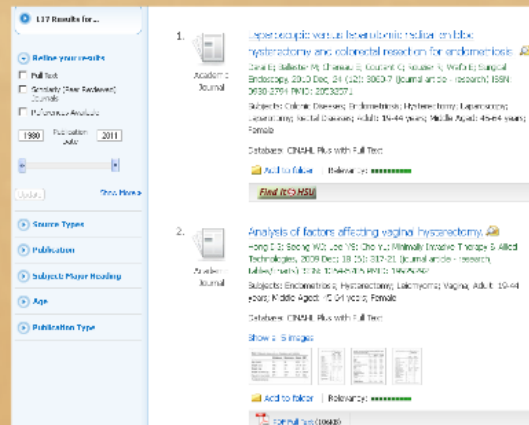
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Do



Decide how comprehensive you want the search to be.
Keep a record of your search terms or save your search.
Use the online help.
Refine your search strategy and search terms until you find what you need.

Don't



- Misspell your keywords!
 - Overlook alternative spellings
 - Use vague keywords
- "diabetes" will give you over 5 million results on 'Discover more'

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Summing Up and help!



Lost? Come and speak to us 1-2-1 or in a small group. You can book at the Ask Desk in the library or try <http://askus.edgehill.ac.uk/> for some FAQs

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