

Thinking About Your Search

1. **Your Topic:** Describe your topic in one or two sentences.

2. **Subject Terms:** Write down the subject terms and any other words or synonyms for the subjects. Check out the subject headings used by the databases you select before you start selecting references.

3. **Purpose** - Consider the purpose for which you want the information:

- Patient care Teaching Research Planning Other

4. **Aspects** - Think about the aspects required:

- All Nursing Psychiatric Physiotherapy Social Work
 Management Administration Other

5. **Groups** -Do you want to restrict your search to specific groups?:

- Child Adult Male Female Other
 Human Animal Age Group All Ages

6. **Information type** - What kinds of information do you want, don't forget:

- Books Journal Articles Reviews EBM reviews Guidelines
 Statistical information Systematic Reviews Other

7. **Recency of information** - Do you just want recent information?

- Latest Update Previous Year All Years Other

8. **Quantity of information** - How much information do you need?

- All relevant information Just a few relevant references? Other

9. **List useful references that you have already located**

Write down the details of any relevant references you have already. These may help you to identify other references. For instance you can look for articles citing your references.