**Information Search Plan**

An information search plan is a detailed description of how you are planning to search to gather relevant information for your research project. It should build on the thinking that you have done in defining your research problem; and on early reading that you have done on the topic. A good information search plan will make you think through what you are going to search, and will help you when you start to write up the project.

**Before you start searching, ask yourself questions:**
- What does our team know on this topic? (Use answers to see where to dig deeper)
  
  Example: reward/incentive
- What do we want to know (Based on answers to think where you want to search)
  
  Example: Does money really affect motivation?
- Our research question is …
  
  Example: How does pay (below- vs. above-market) influence work motivation?

**Plan where you will search …**

Example:
- We will search EBSCOhost Research Databases to find journal and magazine articles on our chosen topic
- Then we will search ProQuest to dig out some good and useful journal articles
- Then we will search Factiva and/or PowerSearch for relevant articles from top newspapers

**Where will you look for search terms or how will you choose?**
- In own head?
- From what you found?
- Look for things like subject terms and keywords used in relevant articles

**What search techniques and symbols will you try or use to broaden or to focus your search?**

Example:
- We will use Boolean operators: “AND”, “OR”, “NOT”
- We will try truncation symbols (*) to search words with a common root
- We will also look for things like “time series”, “geographical location”, etc. to refine a search

**List 2 search queries you have used to look for relevant articles in different resources, such as EBSCOhost.**

Example: (pay OR “monetary incentive*”) AND (influence* OR impact*) AND (“employee motivation” OR performance)

The search queries we have used:

1. __________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________

**Where you have looked so far …**

Example:
- EBSCOhost
  
  Found X: happy because …
  Didn’t Find Y: unhappy because …
- What we plan to do next is …