

# Supporting Flexible Learning - Example

- [Non-synchronous, structured learning activity](#)
- [Produced as a module suitable for embedding into Canvas course](#)

**Topic: Finding academic Information for a literature review**

**Stage: 3**

**Duration: 60 minutes**

## **Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to:

- identify and follow up key journal titles, authoritative sources, experts and networks in their discipline.
- refine their own search strategy:
  - perform advanced searching techniques in a range of subject-specific resources.
  - use multiple synonyms and combination searches to build up a complex search string.
- explain what a 360° search is (moving backwards through references and forwards through citing documents), describe how it might be useful and employ it in their own searching.
- articulate and justify the decisions they have made in choosing and using sources appropriate to their information needs and the task at hand.
- save searches and set up email alerts to keep up to date with key journals/resources.

## **Structure**

This Canvas module was designed to support Biology students in completing a literature review for their dissertation, it covers creating and refining a search strategy, finding information, evaluating their information choices and how to keep up to date with their searching.

### [Introduction](#) (2 minutes)

**WATCH: Introductory video** (2 minutes)

- Video introduces the SAgE Liaison Team and provides an overview of the session.

### [Demonstration and Modelling](#) (30 minutes)

**WATCH: Recorded demonstration** (30 minutes) - combination of slides and screencasts.

- Introduces the idea of a search strategy and discusses the steps involved.
- Explains the importance of having a defined search question and models breaking the question down into key concepts using question prompts and providing an example.

- Demonstrates how to use advanced searching techniques, including BOOLEAN to construct a search string.
- Models finding information in Library Search/CAB abstracts/Scopus, expanding on useful features such as citation searching and author profiles.
- Explains what controlled vocabulary is and demonstrates using a database thesaurus.
- Explains what 360 degree searching is and models how to set up alerts in databases and BrowZine.

## Activities and next steps (28 minutes)

### READ: Thinking about your search plan (3 minutes)

- Uses concepts from the example search question to demonstrate how to develop a list of targeted keywords and synonyms.
- Provides tips on where to look for keywords.

### READ: Advanced searching (3 minutes)

- Recaps tips and advanced searching techniques students can use with their keywords when searching.
- Signposts to the Finding Information Guide for further help.

### EXPLORE: Information types (5 minutes)

- Students directed to their Subject Guide and Resource Guides to explore available resources for their research.

### CREATE: [Search Plan](#) (15 minutes)

- Students use the Library's Search Planner tool to map out their search strategy by identifying keywords and synonyms for their topic and to identify the types of information and resources they plan to use.

## Getting help from the Library (2 minutes)

### READ: Help with resources and academic study skills (2 minutes)

- Provides links to range of support guides and support service available to students, including the Library's [Dissertations and Research Projects Guide](#), the Writing Development Centre and Academic Skills Kit (ASK).

## Assessment opportunities

- Completed Search Plans can be submitted to the Liaison team for formative feedback.
- Students could share their search strategies in a group discussion for peer feedback.
- Search strategies could be added as an appendix to any submitted coursework to show skills development.