

How to do a literature review?

Contents of the presentation

- Creating an efficient search strategy
- Finding books
- Finding journal articles
- A word about bibliographies and citations

Creating a search strategy step by step

1. **Get familiar with your topic:**

- a. Use dictionaries and encyclopedias to understanding the main concepts and theories in the area
- b. Define a research question that is not too broad and is realistic.

Discuss it with your professor!

Creating a search strategy step by step

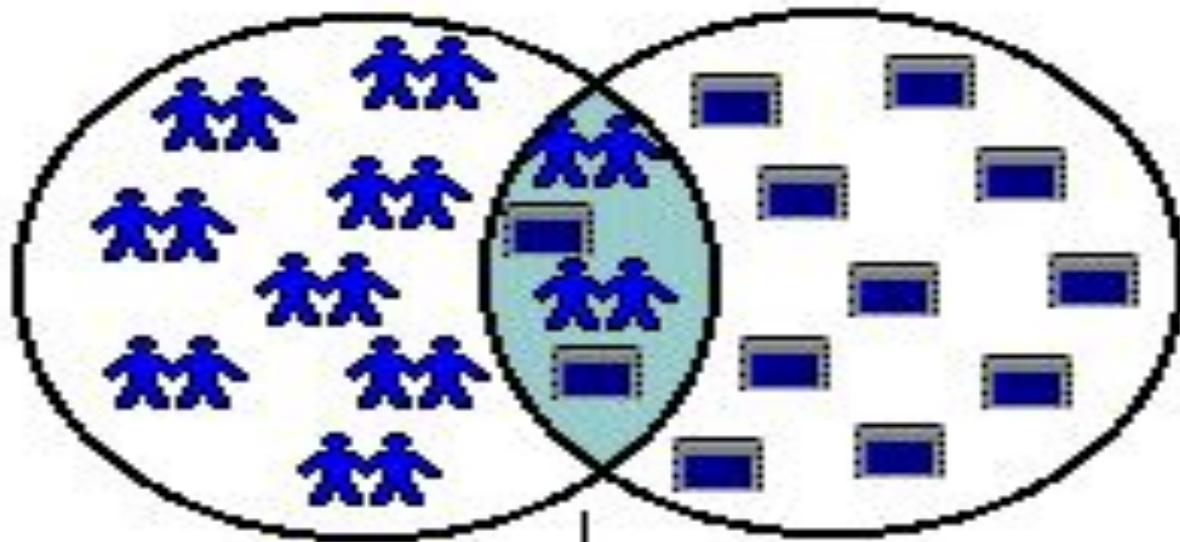
2. Identify your main search keywords

- a) Each important concept or aspect of your research should have its
keyword
- b) Find synonyms or related terms for each keyword

Boolean operators: AND

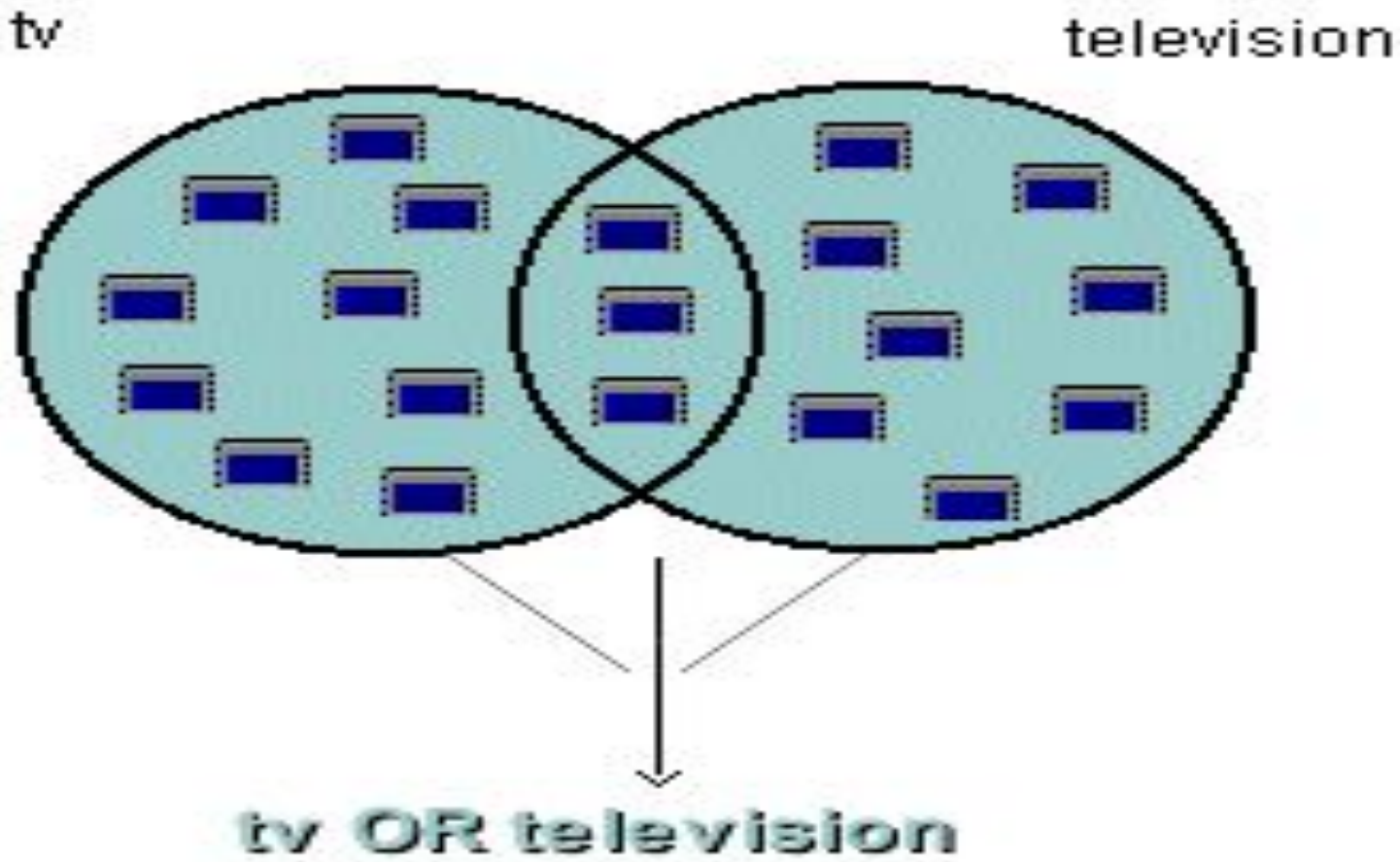
children

television



children AND television

Boolean operators: **OR**



Create a search “equation”

AND

AND

Concept 1

Concept 2

Concept 3

River

Quebec

OR

Pollution

OR

Lake

OR

Estrie

OR

Contamination

OR

Stream

Laurentians

Finding books

- Books can be located through the library catalogue
- Books address broad topics
- Useful to acquire theory or methodology

How to find articles

- Articles appear in several types of periodicals. Can you name a few?
 - Newspapers
 - Magazines
 - Trade or association journals
 - Peer-reviewed or academic journals

Scholarly journal articles

- Peer-reviewed are also called scientific, academic or scholarly
- Articles are sent to a number of academic reviewers (peers)
- These articles address very specific topics
- Most present research results
- They have lengthy reference lists
- They make multiple citations
- Sometimes use footnotes

What about Google Scholar?

- Good content in the scientific fields
- Not so good for social sciences
- Search functions are limited compared to databases

QUESTIONS?