

Evaluating the Search Strategy

After the initial search strategy has been conducted, review the search results and revise the search strategy as necessary to improve results:

- assess the quantity, quality, and relevance of the search results to determine whether additional or alternative information search tools (online catalog, databases and the Web) should be utilized
- assess the relevance of information found by examining elements of the citation such as title, abstract, subject headings, source, date of publication, and decode the URL by reviewing domain
- a revised search strategy may need to be constructed, starting with the search tool (online catalog, databases and the Web), the major points of access (keyword, subject heading, title and author), and the search operators and functions (Boolean search operator, phrase or domain searching, etc.)
- examine footnotes and bibliographies from retrieved items to locate additional sources
- follow, retrieve and evaluate relevant online links to additional sources