Plan a Literature Search

- Have a research question
- Clearly define your research question
- List appropriate search concepts or terms that can be used for searching your topic
- Use keyword search or advanced search
Plan a Literature Search

- Determine the best resources for your search
- Review search results
- Critical analysis of the articles
- Repeat as necessary
Research Topic

• For adult patients with low back pain, does massage result in significantly improvement as compared to acupuncture?
PICO Model

Population
Intervention
Comparison
Outcome
PICO Components (SIGN, 2000)

P = Patient and/or Problem of interest
I = Intervention, defined broadly to encompass clinical decisions about dx, tx, etc.
C = Comparison intervention
O = Outcome of interest
PICO Components

- For patients with low back pain (P), does massage (I) result in significantly improvement (O) as compared to acupuncture (C)?
Determine the Search Concepts or Terms

Concept 1
low back pain

Concept 2
massage

Concept 3
acupuncture
Boolean Operators

Boolean Operator: AND

Low back pain \textit{AND} massage
Boolean Operators

Boolean Operator: OR

Contains any of two terms

massage OR massage therapy
Boolean Operators

Boolean Operator: NOT

Eliminate the records you don’t want

Adult NOT children
Other Search Strategies

- **Truncation**
  - Symbols are used when searching for suffix variations
  
  For example: therap* retrieves therapy, therapies, therapist, and therapists
Other Search Strategies

• **Quotation marks**
  – Search an exact phrase “massage therapy”

• **Search strings**
  – (massage OR massage therapy) AND low back pain OR low backache)