Search Strategy for the Novice Searcher

Sequence of Searching

1. Definition of terms related to a topic
2. Preliminary Background information
3. Material from basic indexes
4. Material from specialized indexes – current information
5. Materials from specialized indexes – reviews and meetings
6. Materials from specialized indexes – dissertations
7. Information from government sponsored materials
8. Specific points of information
9. Computer retrieval

Types of Literature

Paper/Electronic Formats

Dictionaries/Thesaurus’

Encyclopedias/Textbooks/ Advanced books

Journals, etc.

Current awareness/ SDI

Reviews/Symposia

Dissertations

Government Documents

Specialized Reference Books/Databases

Specialized databases