

Finding Keywords

Ask yourself some questions about the information you want to find in order to make a list of words to use in the library's databases:

TOPIC

(State your topic in a question.)

What motivates high school students to learn?

KEYWORDS

(What are the main words that describe your topic?)

motivates high school students learning

SYNONYMS or DESCRIPTORS

(What other words can you use that mean the same thing as your Keywords? To find more synonyms or descriptors you can: 1) use a thesaurus, 2) use the database's thesaurus either online or in print format, 3) look at descriptors or subject terms on a citation/abstract, or 4) call a librarian at any NLU campus.

motivates → motivation or achievement or encouragement

high school students → secondary education

learning → study or discovery