Using Subject Terms in Your Literature Searching

When you are doing original research, you are unlikely to find secondary literature that exactly matches your research topic. For your literature review, you are trying to find existing research that is related to your question in some key way. Before you begin searching, it's a good idea to think through what aspects of your research question might be covered in other research, and use a database's subject terms (called an index or thesaurus) to find that research. It's just as important to figure out what you are searching for as it is to know where to search.

1. St	tating your rese	earch q	question:			
Exam	ıple: <i>Do chartei</i>	r schoo	ls create more equ	iitable access to ed	lucation for Philad	lelphia's low-income students
Yo	our turn:					
2. Bi	reak your resea	arch qu	uestion down into	major concepts.		
Exam	mple: Charter schools		Your turn:			
	Low inc	come st	tudents			
	Philade	elphia				
	Equitab	ole acce	ess to education			
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