Activity Worksheet – Develop a Search Strategy for your Research topic

1. What is your topic?

2. Identify which concepts are P, I and O

   P ____________________________________________________________
   I ____________________________________________________________
   O __________________________________________________________________

3. Choose your search terms for P and I
   ✓ Find the Subject Heading (MesH or CINAHL Headings) for P
   P ____________________________________________________________
   Explode?  YES ___  NO ___  Subheading? Which? ______________________________
   ✓ What keyword* will you use? Will you include truncation?
   P ____________________________________________________________
   → Combine these results for P with OR

   ✓ Find the Subject Heading (MesH or CINAHL Heading) for I
   I ____________________________________________________________
   Explode?  YES ___  NO ___  Subheading? Which? ______________________________
   ✓ What keyword* will you use? Will you include truncation?
   I ____________________________________________________________
   → Combine these results for I with OR

4. Now combine the P and I results with AND
   ✓ Check the results. If number is still high, identify the search terms for the O concept and combine these results with the result of P AND I. Your O concept could be the study design.

5. What limits will you use to refine your search?
   Population: ____________________________________________________________
   Paper characteristics:
   ____________________________________________________________________

6. Make a group account and save your search

7. What tests or measures may you use? (See Scales, Tests and Measures Tutorials)

8. Select papers for export to Refworks.