Library Research Worksheet

1. Write down your topic in the form of a research question.

2. Write down keywords or phrases you could use to find information on your research topic. Convert any popular terms to academic subject terms. Think up possible synonyms and related terms. (Use the back of the page if you need more space or to draw a concept map.)

3. Write down a combination of keywords or phrases and operators (AND, OR, NOT) to use for your initial article database search. Use phrase searching and/or truncation characters as appropriate. Conduct a search in a library article database, such as Applied Sciences and Technology Abstracts. Locate scholarly, peer-reviewed articles relating to your research question. How successful were your initial keywords? What did you learn about your initial search strategy?

4. If you decided to adjust or revise your initial search strategy, write the new keywords or phrases here.

5. Choose one peer-reviewed journal article that seems to answer part of your research question and that you can understand. Record the publication information here:
   a. Author(s):
   b. Title of article:
   c. Source (i.e., journal title):
   d. Year:
   e. Volume and issue:
   f. Page numbers:

   Email the article record to yourself for further use in developing your writing assignment.

6. Search for the same article documented in step 5 using a search engine such as Google Scholar (scholar.google.com)—that is, not through the library website.
   Did you find it? ____ If so, could you open the article? ____ If so, was it the same version (with same content and formatting as found through the UW Libraries)? ____