**Search strategy**

**Research question / Main question**  
No research question yet? For more information on how to draft a main question, see the [Literature Research Training](https://www.edu.nl/rwfyh)

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**Sub-questions**The main question of your research cannot be captured in a few words. That is why you split a main question into sub-questions. Each sub-question contributes to answering your main question.

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**Collecting search terms**   
From your main and sub-questions, you can derive several topics that will form the basis of your search strategy. Put these in the table below. For each topic, collect different search terms. Think of synonyms, jargon, spelling variants and related topics.

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| **Topics** | **Search terms** |
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**Saving search strings**

Use search terms from the previous step and combine these search terms into a search string using [Boolean operators](https://www.rotterdamuas.com/study-information/practical-information/facilities/library/support/literature-research-guide/search-methods/#flex). Consider which [information sources](https://www.rotterdamuas.com/study-information/practical-information/facilities/library/is-per-study-programme/) are most appropriate for your topic. Try out different combinations of information sources and search terms. If you get too many results, adjust your search string or use the filters offered by the information source. For instance, filter your search results by language, period, geographical area or material type.

Note Your search strings, the information source you searched in, the filters you used and the number of results you got. In the table below.

**Tip**: Install the [Lean Library extension](https://www.rotterdamuas.com/access) in your browser to easily access library resources from anywhere.

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| **No.** | | **Search string** | **Information source** | **Used filters** | **No. of results** | **Selected articles** |
| E.g. | (urbanization OR urbanisation OR "urban development") AND "economic impact" AND nature | | Business Source Premier | Publication year: as of 2021 Source Types: Academic Journals | 273 | https://hr.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,cookie,uid&db=buh&AN=175978048&site=ehost-live&scope=site |
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**Save references**

In the table below, you can note the references of your selected sources. Note the number of your search string (see table of search strings) by which the article was found. For correct references, check the [APA reference guide.](https://www.rotterdamuas.com/globalassets/mediatheek/downloads/eng/apa7-guide-hr_en.pdf)

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| **No.** | **Link** | **Reference** | **Remark** |
| E.g. | https://hr.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,cookie,uid&db=buh&AN=175978048&site=ehost-live&scope=site | Zhang, H., Kang, C., & Feng, C. (2024). From Innovation to Green: Does China’s Innovative City Construction Contribute to Green Development? *Emerging Markets Finance & Trade*, 1–36. https://doi-org.hr.idm.oclc.org/10.1080/1540496x.2024.2324193 | Discusses China’s policies as of 2008. |
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