**RESEARCH STRATEGIES**

**Tracking Source Materials Searches**

Use this sheet to keep track of your search terms and results in order to avoid unnecessarily duplicating your work and thus saving time and being a more efficient researcher. We have also included some suggestions on how to evaluate online sources for academic validity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keyword</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teen</td>
<td>Adolescent, “Young Adult”, Teenager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Search String</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th># of Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-Jan</td>
<td>(HIV or AIDS) and (women OR female) and Africa</td>
<td>Scholar’s Portal</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluating Online Sources

When evaluating an online source, ask yourself the following questions:

1. About the site:
   1. Does the name of the sponsoring person, organization, or company appear prominently on all pages of the site?
   2. Do pages on the site have clearly marked links back to the main or home page?
   3. Are pages on the site dated with either a copyright date or a most recent update? Are the pages current?
   4. For whom has this site been designed? Who is its audience?

2. On the main or home page:
   1. Is there an “About Us” section, or some other place where the sponsor states the purpose of this and/or the mission of the sponsoring organization or company?
   2. Is there an easy way to contact the sponsors of this site?
   3. Is there a date on this page (copyright or update)? Is it current?
   4. Is there a clear directory that informs visitors about the content of the site and allows them to navigate the various pages?

3. The site sponsor:
   1. Do I recognize this person or organization? Have I ever heard of this person or organization? What do I know about this person or organization from other sources? Does what I know about this person or organization indicate that it is a reliable source for the type of information I want to take from it?
   2. What does the purpose of the site or the mission of the organization tell me about the authority of material on this site? What do statements about its values tell me? If there are no statements of value, what can I infer?
   3. Look at the links this site provides to other Internet sites. Keeping in mind the adage that we can judge people by the company they keep, what do these links tell me about the values and objectives of the site's sponsors?

4. The material:
   1. Is an author given for this essay or information? Is information provided about the author? What are the author's credentials for speaking on this topic? Do you recognize this author from other sources you've read? Has this author published in authoritative print sources?
   2. Does the author of this page or essay document the sources of evidence he or she includes on this page? Are these citations complete; in other words, could you verify this information?
   3. Is this essay or article or page dated? Is the material current?