<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>BCHS 2525: Introduction to Research Methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Behavioral and Community Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Title</td>
<td>The Public Health Literature: Using it Effectively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student/Teacher Materials</td>
<td>Detail available in the QR code or at <a href="http://libguides.tulane.edu/APHA2012">http://libguides.tulane.edu/APHA2012</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Course Objectives

- **BCHS 2525 Objectives**
  - Plan and perform a focused literature search using PubMed
  - Plan and perform a focused literature search using other databases
  - Explain the benefits of using a reference manager program to writing, academic work

- **ACRL Standard 2, Performance Indicator 1**
  - student selects the most appropriate investigative methods or information retrieval systems for accessing the needed information

- **ACRL Standard 2, Performance Indicator 2**
  - student constructs and implements effectively-designed search strategies.

- **ACRL Standard 2, Performance Indicator 5**
  - student extracts, records, and manages the information and its sources.

- **ASPH MPH Competency: Communication and Informatics**
  - Use information technology to access, evaluate, and interpret public health data.

### Introduction Agenda

1. Lecture/demo organizing, conducting literature search  
2. Homework overview  
3. Using EndNote for citation management  
4. Send consultation appointment scheduling sheet around room

### Teaching Strategy 1: Steps in the literature search

5. Review 9 steps in lit search (Folb, Barbara. Steps in Planning and Implementing a Literature Search. 2012 )
6. Demonstrate and have students parallel search on computer:  
   a. Turning the research question into a search statement  
   b. Search process organization, documentation using search grid  
   c. Identifying, testing, documenting potential search terms  
   d. Evaluating results; strategies for expanding, contracting, focusing the search  
   e. Finding full text articles from the citation

### Teaching Strategy 2: Hands on search practice

7. Students use their current research question from previous lesson to practice search process independently.  
   a. Instructor available for consultation  
8. Class discussion of the search experience, review lecture content as needed  
9. Review search assignment requirements, meeting schedule

### Teaching Strategy 3: EndNote: Adding records; citing references

10. Obtaining EndNote software under student licensing download  
11. Importing citations  
12. Editing records  
13. Attaching full text articles  
14. Citing articles in a Word document  
15. Proofreading, editing reference list

### Closing

17. Set expectations for homework effort, quality; answer questions about it.
**Example: Grid for search organization with synonyms section completed.**

**Research Question:** Does peer to peer education reduce risky sexual behavior in adolescents?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concepts:</th>
<th>Peer-to-peer education</th>
<th>Risk reduction</th>
<th>Sexual behavior</th>
<th>Adolescents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synonyms:</th>
<th>“Peer-led”</th>
<th>“peer education”</th>
<th>“peer-based”</th>
<th>“peer educator”</th>
<th>“peer delivered”</th>
<th>“peer informants”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Risk reduction behavior/</td>
<td>Sexually transmitted</td>
<td>HIV Infections/prevention &amp; control</td>
<td>Risk-Taking/</td>
<td>Health Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice/</td>
<td>Health Behavior/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Safe sex/</td>
<td>Condoms,</td>
<td>Female/utilization</td>
<td>Unsafe Sex/</td>
<td>Sexual Behavior/</td>
<td>Sexual Partners/</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HIV Infections/prevention &amp; control</td>
<td>Condoms/utilization</td>
<td>Condoms/</td>
<td>Contraception/</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assignment Description**

The purpose of this assignment is for you to plan a search based on your current research question and to do the initial search in PubMed.

Extract your search concepts from the research question and add them to the Concepts row in the table. Do a search with those concepts, and from the titles, abstracts, and MeSH terms in the results, harvest synonyms for the initial concepts. Write those synonyms in the Synonyms row. Please refer to *Steps in Planning and Implementing a Literature Search* for an example of such a table. You may add or delete columns to the table as needed.

Test the synonyms to see if they improve the search results using the methods discussed in class and documented in the Steps document. *The testing of your original search terms and any synonyms you list in the 2\(^{nd}\) row should be reflected in your PubMed Search History.*

When you are done with your search, copy and paste the search history from the Advanced Search page (follow link to see what page looks like if you are unsure) in PubMed to the space marked PubMed Search History. Be sure to do this within 8 hours of doing the search, or the history of the search will disappear from PubMed.

We will review your work in person after it is due, but if you have any questions while you are working on the assignment you can feel free to email me.