DECISION TREE FOR LITERATURE SEARCHING

Decide topic

Determine concept(s) involved

Check for subject heading for each concept

Check to see if term “explodable” (Look at tree.)

No

Search textword

Look @ citations and their subject headings to see if and which appropriate headings are used in relevant citations.

No

Search on heading(s)

Develop list of synonyms, then textword search on each synonym

Combine all synonym searches for concept using “or.”

If one concept only

Search on term/heading

Decide whether to include:
1. All narrower terms
2. Original term alone
3. A specific narrower term

Make selection

Search selected terms/headers

Subject heading

Select appropriate subheading

Include all subheadings

Search heading w subheading(s)

If more than one concept:

Combine terms using “and” or “or”

Apply limits

If one concept only

Includes all parts

Includes only the intersection