

Name: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

CONCEPT TABLE

Concept Categories	Primary Concept	Secondary Concepts			
Keywords <i>OR</i> Synonyms <i>OR</i> Related Terms <i>OR</i> Subject Headings		A N D	A N D	A N D	A N D

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Focused Research Topic: Choosing a topic

Our sample topic will be about natural disasters.

CONCEPT TABLE

Concept Categories	Primary Concept	Secondary Concepts			
	Natural disasters				
Keywords <i>OR</i>	Catastrophes	A N D	A N D	A N D	A N D
Synonyms <i>OR</i>	Hazards				
Related Terms <i>OR</i>	Tragedy				
Subject Headings*	Devastation				
	Hurricanes				
	Tsunamis				
	Forest fires				
	Earthquakes				

What is your main research topic? List it under Primary Concept. List other keywords that describe this topic underneath: alternate spellings, synonyms, related terms and phrases, and subject headings you'll find in library databases.

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Focused Research Topic: Find background information

As you do some background research, add secondary concepts and search terms to help focus your topic.

CONCEPT TABLE

Concept Categories	Primary Concept	Secondary Concepts			
	Natural disasters	locations	Environmental causes		
Keywords	Catastrophes	Gulf of Mexico	Low atmospheric pressure		
OR	Hazards	Atlantic	Tropical waters		
Synonyms	Tragedy	Caribbean			
	Devastation	California			
OR	Hurricanes	New Orleans	Plate tectonics		
Related Terms	Tsunamis				
	Forest fires		Dry conditions		
OR	Earthquakes		Lightening		
Subject Headings	Tropical cyclone				
	Typhoon				

After search Encyclopedia Britannica online, we've added locations and causes to our concept table. Soon we'll pick a specific kind of natural disaster, with its related locations and causes as we continue to focus our research topic.

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Focused Research Topic: Find books using Addison

Now that we've focused on hurricanes, we searched Addison using combinations of search terms from our concept table.

CONCEPT TABLE

Concept Categories	Primary Concept	Secondary Concepts			
	Natural disasters	locations	Environmental causes	Social Aspects	
Keywords	Catastrophes	Gulf of Mexico	Low atmospheric pressure	Evacuations	
OR	Hazards	Atlantic	Tropical waters	Emergency aid	
Synonyms	Tragedy	Caribbean	Plate tectonics		
OR	Devastation	California	Dry conditions		
Related Terms	Hurricanes	New Orleans	Lightening		
OR	Tsunamis	Gulf states			
Subject Headings	Forest fires	Florida			
	Earthquakes	Louisiana			
	Tropical cyclone	Mississippi			
	Typhoon				
	Isabelle,				
	Katrina,				
	Andrew, Hugo,				
	Camille				

We've picked up an additional secondary concept from Subject Headings listed in Addison for several of the books we may use for our research project: Social Aspects. We've also found additional terms for other columns in the table.

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Focused Research Topic: Find articles using databases

Now we're focusing specifically on hurricane Katrina while using these search terms to find articles through databases.

CONCEPT TABLE

Concept Categories	Primary Concept	Secondary Concepts				
	Natural disasters	locations	Environmental causes	Social Aspects	Environmental Impacts	
Keywords	Catastrophes	Gulf of Mexico	Low atmospheric pressure	Evacuations	Flood control	
OR	Hazards	Atlantic	Tropical waters	Emergency aid	Mold	
Synonyms	Tragedy	Caribbean	Plate tectonics		Pollution	
OR	Devastation	California	Dry conditions		Storm surge	
Related Terms	Hurricanes	New Orleans	Lightning		Animal welfare	
OR	Tsunamis	Gulf states			Plant welfare	
OR	Forest fires	Florida			Restoration ecology	
Subject Headings	Earthquakes	Louisiana				
	Tropical cyclone	Mississippi				
	Typhoon					
	Isabelle,					
	Katrina,					
	Andrew, Hugo,					
	Gamille					

After looking at a number of articles, we've changed our focus more towards environmental impacts and less towards environmental causes. That may mean modifying/repeating earlier searches in Addison.