Information search strategy work sheet:

1. **Formulate your topic as a research question using PICO elements by identifying Population, Intervention, Comparator, and Outcome:**

   Population (e.g., ecosystem, species):
   ________________________________________________

   Intervention (e.g., treatment, action):
   ________________________________________________

   Comparator (e.g., alternative intervention):
   ________________________________________________

   Outcome (e.g., measure of impact):
   ________________________________________________

2. **Write out your research question** – *e.g., “What is the impact of intervention (I) or exposure (E) applied to populations (P) on an outcome (O) [compared to comparator (C)]?”*

3. **Identify main concepts and alternative search terms/keywords from your PICO question that can be used for your search** – brainstorm all relevant search terms you can think of

   Concept 1 ___________  Concept 2 ___________  Concept 3 ___________  Concept 4 ___________
   __________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________

4. **Write out your search strategy** – *combine terms within the same concept with “OR”, combine different concepts with “AND”*

5. **List any limits that may apply to your search** – *e.g., document type, publication year(s), region, language(s)*

6. **List relevant sources / databases you will search** – *e.g., Web of Science, Scopus, CAB Direct*

(adapted from Miller 2001)