

Database Searching Worksheet

STEP 1 of Search Process (Expressing Your Topic):

MCC Library 12/07

- **Write your topic as a phrase or question:** (Example: Are there any dangerous side effects of the diphtheria vaccine?):

STEPS 2 & 3 of Search Process (Selecting a Format & Access Tool):

- **Select one of the library subscription databases to search and give a brief explanation as to why you chose that database:** (Example: I chose as my access tool the EBSCO Health Source/Nursing database because it contains my desired format, articles in full-text medical journals.)

STEP 4 of Search Process (Constructing Your Search Statement):

- **Write your search terms and any alternate search terms for your topic on the table below:** (See sample below of how to fill out table.)

	Search Term	Alternate Term	Alternate Term
Search Concept 1		or	or
and	and		
Search Concept 2		or	or
and	and		
Search Concept 3		or	or

Sample Search Term Table:

	Search Term	Alternate Term	Alternate Term
Search Concept 1	diphtheria	or dpt	
and Search Concept 2	and vaccin*	or immuniz*	
and Search Concept 3	and side effect*	or reaction	or danger*

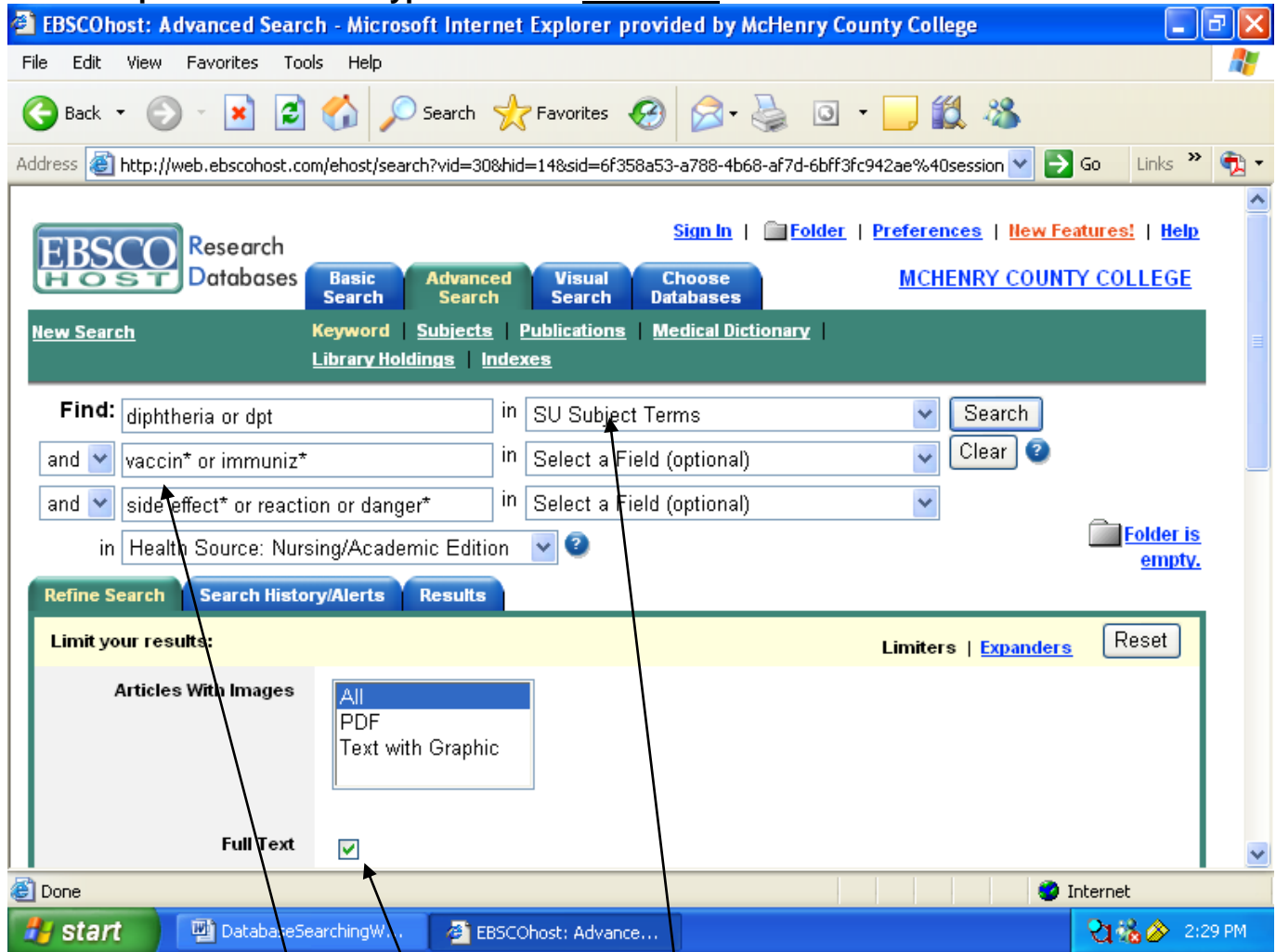
Truncation symbol

- **Possible Limiters to Use:** (Example: I'm going to search for diphtheria in the subject heading field and limit my search to full-text articles.)

- **Now enter your search in the database.** (See sample on back of how to type your search into the advanced search screen.)
- **How many sources did you find?** _____

(over)

How sample search looks typed into the advanced search screen of the database:



Full-text limiter
 Subject heading limiter
 Advanced search boxes separate “and” searches from “or” searches.

STEP 5 of Search Process (Evaluating Your Search):

- Do the sources look useful? (yes or no) _____
- If yes, write the title of one article that looks useful:

- Do you need to modify your search? (yes or no) _____
- If yes, how might you change your search to make it better? (Fill out another worksheet if you like.)