# USING A TOOL TO TEACH SEARCH STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

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### TWO EMBEDDED LIBRARIANS...

### **Pharmacy**

- PharmD students in 1<sup>st</sup> semester of study
- Goal: introduce complex search strategy development to answer drug information question
- Work is done in academic teams

### **Public Health**

- PhD and DrPH students in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of study
- Goal: Complete literature review for a research class. Students have completed advanced search skills training in the previous semester.
- Work is done individually



## ...SAME PROBLEMS

- Simple searches
- Vague searches
- Multiple searches for the same concept
- Poorly-developed searches
- Haphazard article selection



# BREAKING DOWN THE SEARCH PROCESS





### Public Health

Formulate your question (PICO)

**Background research** 

Identify concepts

Identify synonyms and controlled vocabulary

Assemble search

Create database-specific search strategies

**Search method narrative** 

**PRISMA** chart

Librarian feedback

Final reviewed strategies



# Librarian as reviewer rather than designer



## RESULTS



More robust search strategies



Greater understanding of controlled vocabulary



Improved knowledge of search process



More student engagement





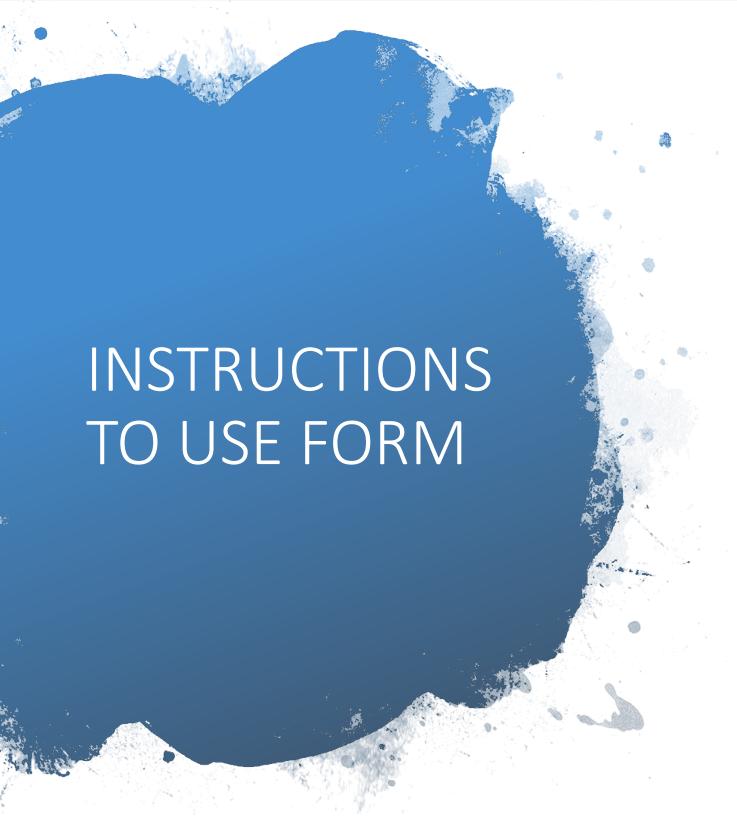
### LEARNINGS

- Get IRB approval first!
- Delineate differences between PICO and search concepts
- Identify keywords first before getting into controlled vocabulary
- Form should be flexible to meet research needs of patron

# FORM-SPECIFIC LEARNINGS

- Use plain-text content controls to allow tabbing from field to field
- Make sure Developer is turned off and "Restrict Editing" is turned on





- Both forms have a Creative Commons license, allowing you to alter and use form as you like if it is for non-commercial use and is attributed.
- To adjust the form to your own needs:
  - 1. Download the form desired below.
  - 2. Add/turn on the Developer toolbar in Microsoft Word.
  - 3. Click on Restrict Editing and then "Stop Protection".
  - 4. Click on the "Design Mode" button and start editing.
  - 5. Don't forget to reverse steps 3 & 4 when you are ready to distribute the form!

#### Download Pharmacy Form http://bit.ly/USFCOPSearch

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#### Download Public Health Form http://bit.ly/USFCOPHSearch

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Concept 2	Click or tap here to enter text.
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