



## Appendix B: Sample Literature Search Strategy

You can easily conduct a search of academic, peer-reviewed articles, as well as nonacademic sources, using freely available tools such as PubMed, Google Scholar, and Advanced Google Search.

To represent HIE, you could include the following concepts:

- Health Information Network(s)
- Health Information Exchange(s)
- Health Information Organization(s)
- Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN)
- Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIO)
- eHealth Exchange

For PubMed, you could use the following search string to represent HIE:

“health information organization\*” OR “health information exchange\*” OR RHIO

The HIE search string uses PubMed’s wildcard search capability and the OR function to include relevant concepts in a single search. Please note that PubMed does not recognize or allow the use of “NwHIN” in its search string (it is automatically replaced with Nahin, the last name of some authors.)

You should combine the HIE search string with PubMed search strings describing your evaluation goals and objectives.

Once you have the search results, you should start by reviewing each title and abstract for relevance, and then retrieve the full text for articles that are of interest to your evaluation team.

For Google searches, you could use the following search string to represent HIE:

“Health Information” (|organization|exchange|NwHIN|RHIO|eHealth Exchange)

You should also construct a Google search string for your evaluation goals and objectives, then combine that with the HIE search string. A good search strategy should yield highly relevant articles within the top 10 results. You may want to review the top 100 results obtained using Advanced Google Search, Google Blog Search, and Google Scholar Search.

