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Developing a search strategy

The pitfalls of searching

1. Finding too many results

The screenshot shows the SOLO search interface for the University of Oxford. The search term 'bullying' is entered in the search bar. The search results page displays 'PAGE 1 68,879 Results', which is circled in red. The first result is an article titled 'Bullying' by Nunn, Kenneth P, published in the Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health in April 2010. The second result is another article titled 'Bullying' by Louthan, McIntyre, published in the Journal of Failure Analysis and Prevention in 2010. The interface includes navigation links for 'NEW SEARCH', 'BROWSE', 'MAP SEARCH', 'HELP', and 'TAGS', and an 'ADVANCED SEARCH' button.

SOLO SEARCH OXFORD LIBRARIES ONLINE

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NEW SEARCH BROWSE MAP SEARCH HELP TAGS

bullying Search Everything

ADVANCED SEARCH

PAGE 1 68,879 Results

ARTICLE / multiple sources exist. [see all](#)

Bullying
Nunn, Kenneth P
Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health, April 2010, Vol.46(4), pp.140-141

PEER REVIEWED

Online access >

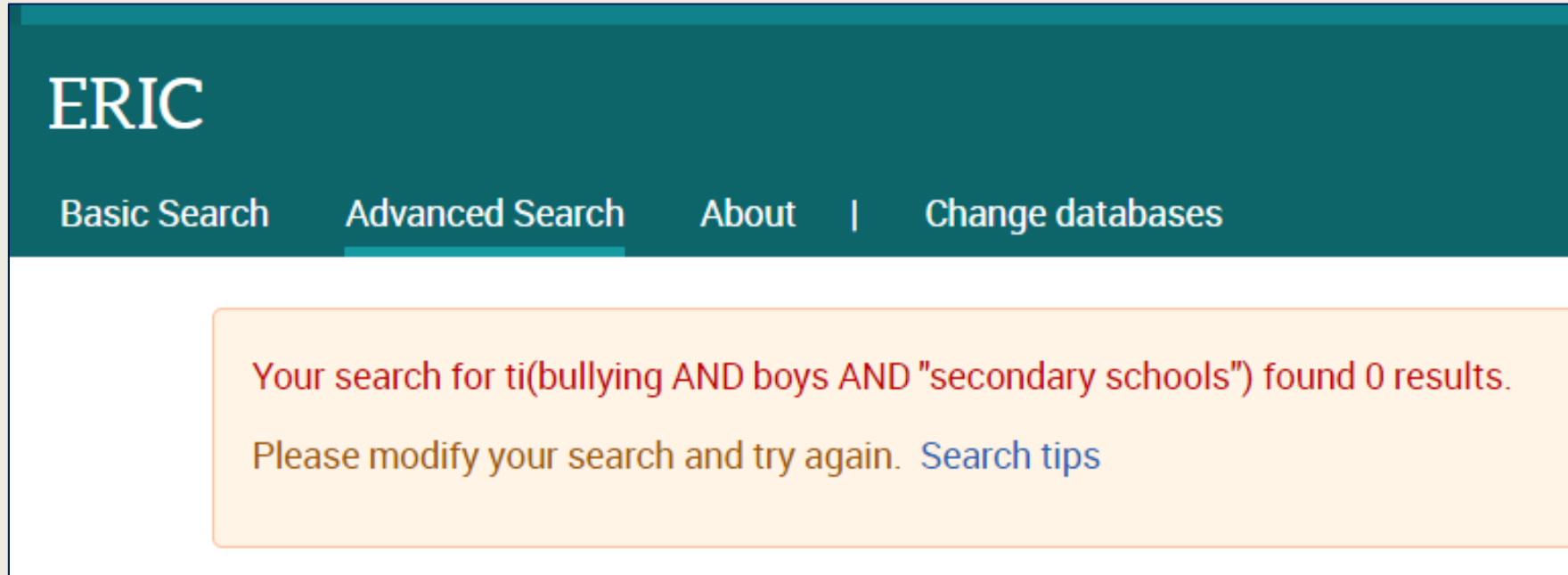
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ARTICLE / multiple sources exist. [see all](#)

Bullying
Louthan, McIntyre
Journal of Failure Analysis and Prevention, 2010, Vol.10(3), pp.167-168

The pitfalls of searching

1. Finding too few or no results at all



The screenshot shows the ERIC website interface. At the top, the ERIC logo is displayed in white on a dark teal background. Below the logo, there are navigation links: "Basic Search", "Advanced Search" (which is highlighted with a teal underline), "About", and "Change databases". The main content area is white and contains a message in a light orange box with a thin orange border. The message reads: "Your search for ti(bullying AND boys AND 'secondary schools') found 0 results. Please modify your search and try again. [Search tips](#)".

ERIC

Basic Search Advanced Search About | Change databases

Your search for ti(bullying AND boys AND "secondary schools") found 0 results.
Please modify your search and try again. [Search tips](#)

The solution: develop a search strategy

Example research topic:

Bullying among boys in secondary schools

Identify key concepts

Bullying among boys in secondary schools

Think about alternative keywords

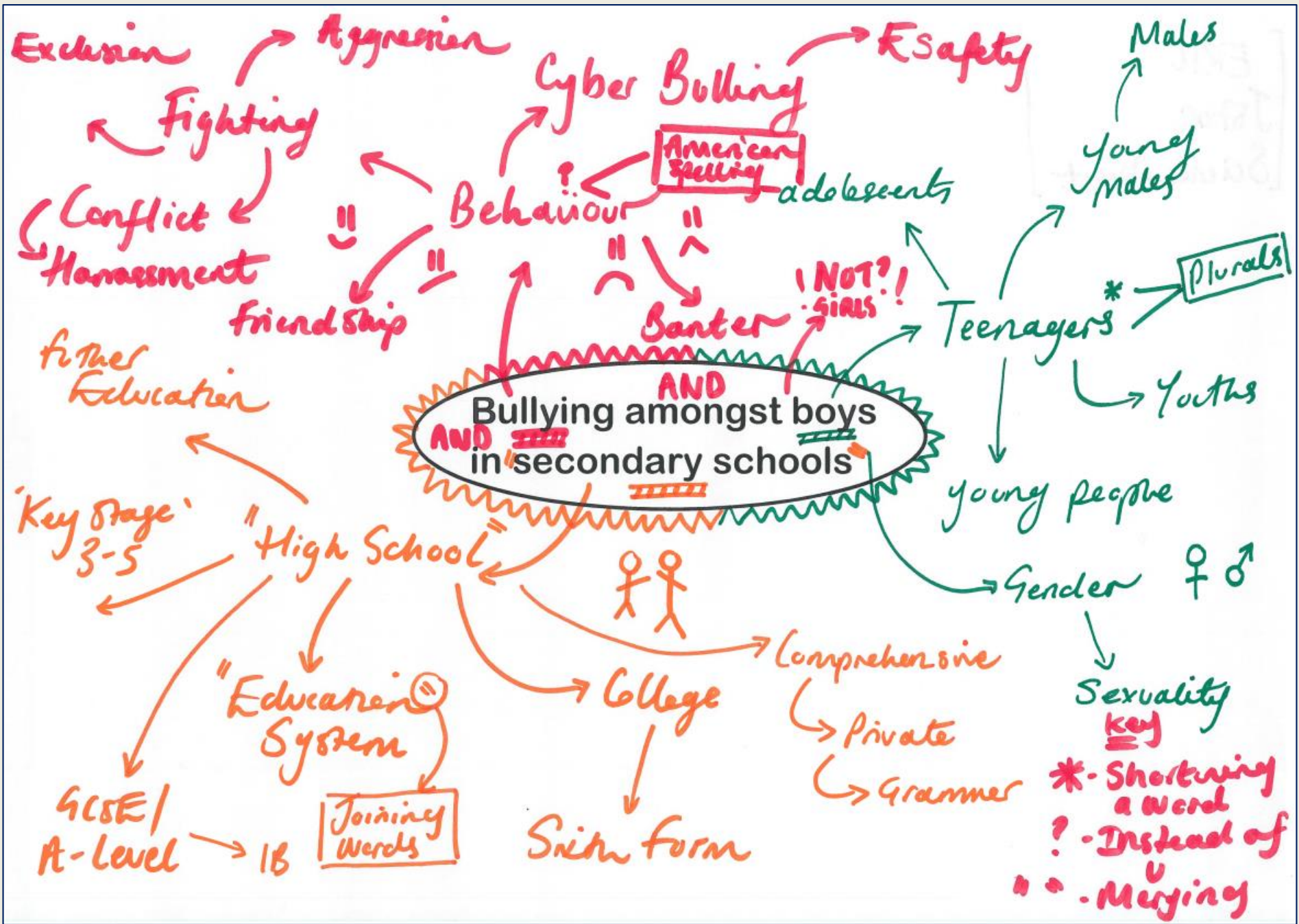
Research Topic: Bullying among boys in secondary schools

Row	Concept 1:	Concept 2:	Concept 3:
1	Bullying	Boys	Secondary schools

Row
2

Think about alternative keywords

Research Topic: Bullying among boys in secondary schools			
Row 1	Concept 1: Bullying	Concept 2: Boys	Concept 3: Secondary schools
Row 2	Harassment Victimisation Physical Verbal Fighting Teasing Cyber-bullying Aggressive behaviour	Young men Males Adolescents Teenagers Youths Young people Gender	High schools Post-primary education Private schools State schools Colleges GCSE A level KS3 / Key Stage Three



**Bullying amongst boys
in secondary schools**



Cyber-bullying
Bullying

physical/verbal/
emotional abuse
Disruptive
behaviour



Young adults
Students
Youths
Teenagers
Adolescents

Boys



Young men
(lads lads lads)
11-14 y/os
Males



GCSE / A Level
KS3 / 4 / 5
Secondary Schools
High School



Educational Institution
Comprehensive / Grammar / Selective Schools

