RELI 383 Women and Religion: Islam
Library workshop – Worksheet

Choosing your research topic

The 5W & H methodology will help you narrow down from a general topic to a research question. Depending on your subject and the breath on your research, not all questions will be necessary or even useful. They are there to help guide you in thinking about your research project in manageable and searchable terms.

Your general topic: _____

What? What problem or issue are you interested in? The subject matter.	
Who? Who is involved? Which population are you studying?	
When? Does your question have a specific time frame or is it related to a certain event?	
Where? Can the issue be contained within a specific geographical limitation? Where did the event occur?	
Why? What are the underlying reasons or causes of the event?	
How? How did the event happen? Circumstances, external factors, processes, influences that may have contributed to the situation.	

Considering your answers to one or more of these questions, your research question is:

How would you write this research question using search operators (such as AND, OR, NOT, * or quotation marks)?

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