Welcome! Nau mai haere mai!

Library research skills - advanced

21 March 2019

Before the webinar begins, please:

Make sure your microphone is muted:

Introduce yourself and your area of study using the Chat feature in the right hand panel:

If you don’t see the right hand panel, click this button:

During the webinar, please use the Raise hand button if you wish to talk with your microphone, or use Chat to ask questions.

Thank you!
Elwyn and Geraldine
Library Research Skills - Advanced
Liaison Librarians
Where have you looked for academic information?
Goals for today’s session

- Recognise specialist databases for your subject
- Identify some advanced search strategies and techniques for future use
- Manage search results
Outline

• Introduction
• Choosing an information source
  - Library databases
• Advanced search strategies and techniques
• Managing search results
• Recap and questions
What is a database?

- A searchable electronic index of published, reliable resources
- Provides access to a wealth of useful research materials from academic journals, newspapers, and magazines.
- A database may be dedicated to a single subject or cover several subjects.
Where to find academic articles (and everything else we have...)

- **Broad general search:** articles, books, videos
- **Known book titles**
- **Specialised databases by subjects or format:** find articles, images and video
- **Scholarly general database – find articles and books**
Choosing a database

- Think about what you need
  - Academic articles
  - Books
  - Video
  - News
  - Company reports

- Try your subject guide – read the information about top resources

- Ask your lecturer for recommendations

- Ask your Liaison Librarian
### Where to search

Pros and cons of different sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Google</th>
<th>Library Search</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADVANTAGES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy to use</td>
<td>In-depth coverage across multiple databases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huge range of information</td>
<td>Wide range of research literature, books, ebooks,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from websites, documents</td>
<td>videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and social media</td>
<td>Mostly scholarly/peer-reviewed content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISADVANTAGES</td>
<td>Need to know search tools and limiters to search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too many results, not all</td>
<td>effectively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>relevant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard to find research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information not always</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reliable/trustworthy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where to search
Pros and cons of different sources

**Google Scholar**

**ADVANTAGES**
- Easy to use
- Wide range of research literature
- Mostly free (if accessed through AUT Library)

**DISADVANTAGES**
- Too many results, not all relevant
- Have to pay for articles if not accessed through AUT Library

**Subject databases**
- **e.g., Art & Architecture Complete**

**ADVANTAGES**
- In-depth, subject specific coverage
- Mostly scholarly/peer-reviewed content

**DISADVANTAGES**
- Only includes one publisher’s works
- Need to know search tools and limiters to search effectively
Where to search
Pros and cons of different sources

**Multi-disciplinary indexes**
*e.g., Scopus, Web of Science*

<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarly/peer-reviewed content</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced searching and impact measurement tools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finding databases

Let’s look at how to find:

• a **database recommended for your subject**

• a **general multi-disciplinary database**
  
  (e.g., Google Scholar, Scopus or Library Search)
Search strategies and techniques

• Decide what information you need (e.g. articles, opinion, research, images) and where you will find it

• Identify key concepts in your research question(s)

• Create search strategy:
  a. Choose keywords
  b. Combine words and concepts
  c. Apply additional search techniques
Example topic:
Discuss the relationship between climate change and poverty in developing countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLIMATE CHANGE</th>
<th>DEVELOPING COUNTRIES</th>
<th>POVERTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>climate change</td>
<td>developing countries</td>
<td>poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>global warming</td>
<td>developing nations</td>
<td>poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>climate policy/policies</td>
<td>third world</td>
<td>deprivation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>environmental policy/policies</td>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>privation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rising sea levels</td>
<td></td>
<td>indigent/indigence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thesaurus.com and Credo Reference (Library database) are good sources for finding synonyms.
b) Join concepts logically to focus your search

Use **AND** to link concepts together – **narrows** your search

Use **OR** to group synonyms or equivalent search terms – **broadens** your search

**“climate change” OR “global warming”**

**“climate change” AND poverty**

Video: *Putting Together your Search Terms* (link in handout)
https://youtu.be/pk9O-856A4Q
c) Search techniques: truncation and phrases

• Phrase search – use quotation marks to glue words together
  “developing countries”

• Truncation – use * to search for different word endings
  environ*
  Will retrieve: environment, environments, environmental, environs
TOO MANY results? Narrow the search

• **Refine results** or use **limits**

• Each database offers a different range of limiters. Common limits/refiners are **publication date**, **subject** and **source type**

• Apply limiters one at a time so you can see what effect they have on your results

• You may apply limits before or after you search
Narrowing search results in Scopus

Option 1: Apply limits before searching

Option 2: Refine results after searching
TOO FEW results? **Broaden** the search

- Use **fewer** keywords
- Try **different** keywords
- Look for keywords and subject term suggestions in databases

Example of keyword suggestions in a Scopus record
Searching is iterative

Plan search

Do search

Revise search

Evaluate results
Example search in Scopus

Search
"Climate change" OR "global warming"
E.g., "Cognitive architectures" AND robots

AND
Search
poverty OR deprivat*

AND
Search
"developing countries"
Be organised with your searches

Make a note of:

• Terms used
• Databases searched
• How you refined the search
• Results (Useful? Not useful?)
• Any new keyword suggestions

This can help you explore which search terms and databases are best for your topic
**Search grid:**
Use notes to remind yourself where you have searched and what words you have used

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Terms used</th>
<th>Database</th>
<th>Refining/results/new words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“climate change” poverty “developing countries”</td>
<td>Library search</td>
<td>Over 40,000 results (no refining applied)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Some recent eBooks look useful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Possible keywords/subject terms:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Climatic changes -- Social aspects -- Developing countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“climate change” OR “global warming” poverty OR deprivation “developing countries”</td>
<td>Scopus</td>
<td>450 &gt; refine to last 5 years &gt; 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Will use some</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Suggested new keyword:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- “socioeconomic vulnerability”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluating - TRAAP

- Time of publication?
- Relevance of content?
- Authority of author?
- Accuracy of content?
- Purpose of publication?

**HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS**

- **CONSIDER THE SOURCE**
  Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.

- **READ BEYOND**
  Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What’s the whole story?

- **CHECK THE AUTHOR**
  Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?

- **SUPPORTING SOURCES?**
  Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.

- **CHECK THE DATE**
  Reposting old news stories doesn’t mean they’re relevant to current events.

- **IS IT A JOKE?**
  If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.

- **CHECK YOUR BIASES**
  Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.

- **ASK THE EXPERTS**
  Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.
Parts of an article and their functions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key function</th>
<th>Where to look?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introducing the main topic</td>
<td>Abstract  Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing background research &amp; relevant issues to set up the study</td>
<td>Abstract  Introduction  Literature Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explaining how the study was done</td>
<td>Abstract  Method/Methodology/Research Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing details about findings from the author’s new study</td>
<td>Abstract  Findings  Discussion/Conclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecting findings to past research &amp; relevant issues</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reminding the reader of the main findings</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stating the significance/importance of the study</td>
<td>Abstract  (end of) Introduction  Conclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing exact details of sources</td>
<td>Reference List</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Managing search results

Several options - you can do these from most databases & choose what suits you best.

• Copy the citation information (and save in a word document)

• Download pdfs and save them to a folder on your desktop
Managing search results

• **Email** articles to yourself

• **Save in a folder or list** in the database itself (you may need to make an account)

• Use a **reference manager**
Email search alerts

Like your search and want to get all the latest articles on your topic?

• Register a personal account in a database
• Set up email alerts.
## Recap

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Decide what you need and where to look</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Find databases that will contain relevant information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Identify topic question(s), and key concepts/keywords</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Form a search strategy and try it in a database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Evaluate what you find</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Refine and revise search if needed - use keywords and subject terms from other articles to help your search. Keep track of your search strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Decide how you want to save results, including citation information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Consider using a reference manager such as EndNote, Zotero or Mendeley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions?
Further help

Your Liaison Librarian
https://library.aut.ac.nz/for-lecturers/liaison-librarian-services
References

Video

Images
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All the best with your studies!