

Advanced Searching

Humanities Level 5

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Available: Monday to Friday, 9am - 4:30pm

Aims of today's session

To strengthen your search strategy by exploring more advanced search techniques and methods using a range of library resources and Google.



- Consider advanced search options in the library catalogue.
- Locating and searching specialist databases.
- Grey Literature.
- Consider AI in your research.
- Find help and support.

Links in presentation

- Our online information literacy skills content is linked (via the orange infoskills buttons) at key points throughout the presentation.
- Use these infoskills to support, expand, and refresh your academic skills during your studies.
- QR codes may also be provided throughout the presentation to enable quick access to relevant webpages, resources, or further information.

[Library infoskills Link](#)

Key steps in a research strategy...

Choose and refine a topic:

- Select a subject to research, **start broad and narrow down** to a focused question.
- Make sure the topic is researchable and relevant to your subject.

Gather sources:

- Prioritise academic and credible sources.
- Check for access. Use Need More if applicable.

Analyse and take notes:

- Record bibliographic details for citations and consider using RefWorks to organise your reference lists.
- Summarise key arguments, visual elements, and historical context.

Develop your own point of view:

- Formulate a clear, arguable statement based on your research.

Write and cite:

- Reference correctly using Harvard.
- Label any images used and credit the source.

Evaluating Information

Evaluating Information

Consider the source and quality of the information you are using.

Apply critical thinking and reasoning.

Currency

Relevance

Authority

Accuracy

Purpose

[CRAAP](#) (video)

Stop

Investigate

Find better coverage

Trace back to original context.

[SIFT](#) (video)

Accurate

Current

Objective

Relevant

Named

[ACORN](#) (article and video)

Advanced searching

Advanced Searching

- Advanced searching helps you find more relevant and focused academic information on your topic.
- It allows you to combine keywords using Boolean operators to broaden or narrow your results.
- Search techniques such as phrase searching and wildcard symbols can improve retrieval of relevant literature.
- Applying filters such as date, publication type, subject area, and peer-reviewed content can help refine search results.

Begin with a scoping review



It is useful when you are deciding on the focus of your research to find out what you already know and what you need to find out.

It is generally undertaken **before** you submit a research proposal.

You can then build on the results to develop a more defined search strategy.

Library catalogue search.

Search for information.

- Good quality, up-to-date resources in your subject area.

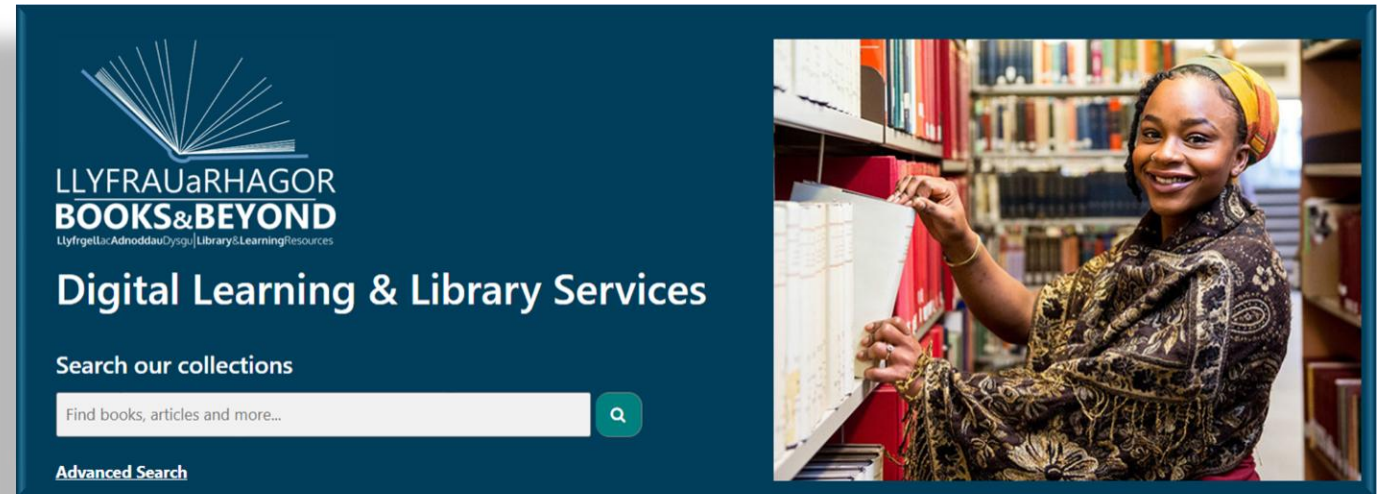
Manage information.

- Save and organise favourite items.
- Save queries and set alerts.

You can also access ...

- Research Assistant.
- Browse eJournals.
- Database Search.
- Need More?

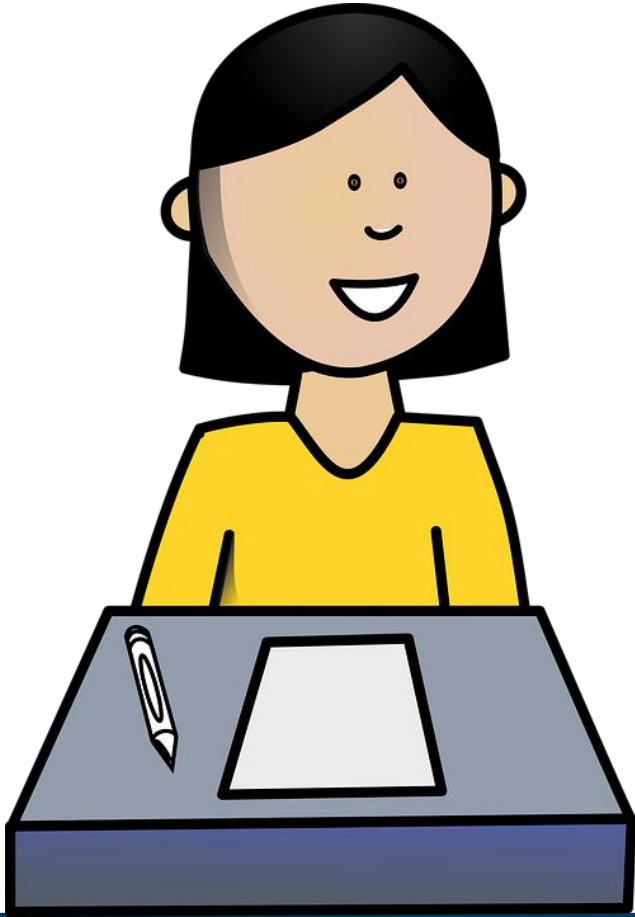
[Searching for information](#)



[Library](#)



Search Strings: the three basics.



AND
OR
NOT

Boolean Operators

”

Quotation
mark

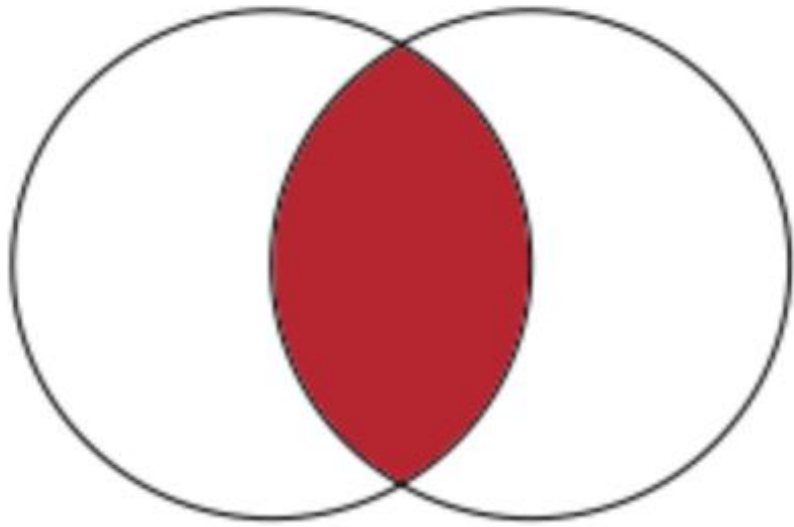
*

Truncation

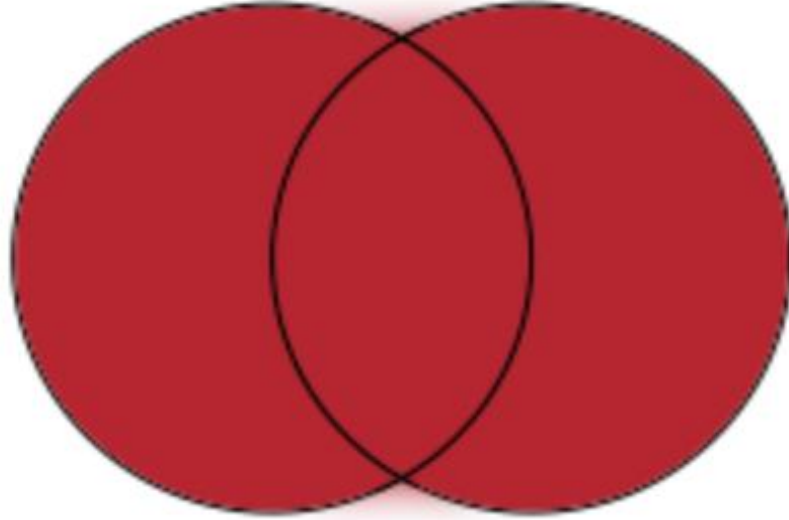


Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

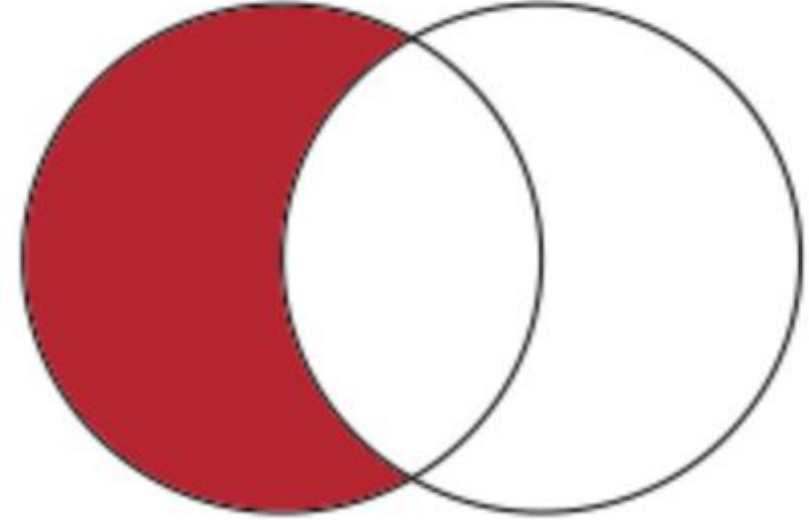
Trawsnewid Addysg, Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education, Transforming Lives



AND



OR



NOT

Boolean Operators allow you to **combine your keywords** to narrow or broaden your search.

- **AND**: narrows your search by only giving results where **ALL** your search terms are present.
- **OR**: broadens your search where **ANY** of your search terms are present.
- **NOT**: Excludes specific terms

Phrase searching & terminology

Further Searching Techniques

Consider different terminology that may be used.



- **Alternative words:** Synonyms / Antonyms.
- **Phrase searching:** Search for a phrase in quotations “social networks”
- **Truncation:** Search for different endings to your term, e.g. relig* finds religion, religions, religious...

Also try...

Asking an AI tool (e.g. Perplexity, ChatGPT, or Co-Pilot) to:

- Provide a list of keywords to use in a library database search.
- Create a Boolean search string with those keywords.

Combined multi-line search examples

Q: *how does religion influence conflict and society?*

You can build structured searches (often using separate lines or sets in databases):

Line 1: religion

- (religion OR religious OR faith OR faith)

Line 2: conflict

- (conflict OR violence OR war OR peace OR cooperation)

Line 3: society

- (society OR social OR communit*)

Advanced Search

- Use Boolean Operators.
- Try truncation.
- Apply phrase searching.
- Experiment with drop down options.

The screenshot displays an advanced search interface with two tabs: 'SEARCH CRITERIA' and 'BARCODE SEARCH'. The 'SEARCH CRITERIA' tab is active. At the top, there is a 'Search Scope' dropdown set to 'Search everything'. Below this, the 'Search Filters' section contains three rows of criteria. The first row has 'Subject' (highlighted in yellow) with a dropdown arrow, followed by 'contains' (dropdown arrow) and 'religion'. The second row starts with 'AND' (highlighted in yellow), followed by 'Any field' (dropdown arrow), 'contains' (dropdown arrow), and 'conflict'. The third row starts with 'AND' (highlighted in yellow), followed by 'Any field' (dropdown arrow), 'contains' (dropdown arrow), and 'communit*' (highlighted in yellow). Below these rows are two buttons: '+ ADD A NEW LINE' and 'CLEAR'. To the right of the search filters, there are several dropdown menus for 'Material Type' (set to 'All items'), 'Language' (set to 'Any language'), 'Start Date' (with 'Day', 'Month', and 'Start Year' dropdowns), and 'End Date' (with 'Day', 'Month', and 'End Year' dropdowns). At the bottom, a red rectangular box highlights the summary text: 'Subject contains religion AND Any field contains conflict AND Any field contains communit*'. To the right of this box is a green magnifying glass icon and the word 'SEARCH'.

[Link](#)

Subject Headings

 **ARTICLE**
Faith, community, and resilience during genocide in Gaza
Hamamra, Bilal ; Mahamid, Fayeze
England: Blackwell Publishing Ltd; Disasters, 2026-01, Vol.50 (1), p.e70023-n/a
“ Positive religious coping, particularly within the Islamic faith, and social support are crucial for alleviating the impacts of traumatic experiences and fostering psychological adjustment... ”
 PEER REVIEWED
 [Download Article](#)  [Full text available](#) >
 [View Issue Contents](#) 

     ...

Explore subject headings
in the item record and
click on [hyper links](#) to
obtain a different search
result.

[Link](#)

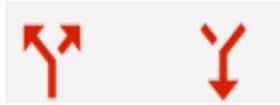
Details

Title Faith, community, and resilience during genocide in Gaza
Author Hamamra, Bilal >
Mahamid, Fayeze >
Is Part Of Disasters, 2026-01, Vol.50 (1), p.e70023-n/a
Subjects

- Adaptability (Psychology) >
- Exploitation >
- Female >
- Gaza Strip >
- Genocide >
- Human beings >
- Islam >
- Male >
- Middle East >
- Palestinian Arabs >
- Psychic trauma >
- Qualitative research >
- Religion >**
- Religious leaders >
- Resilience (Personality trait) >
- Sampling >
- Snowball sampling >
- Social Cohesion >
- Social networks >
- Social structure >
- Wounds and injuries >

Tips

Finding a relevant article / book can lead to many more resources.

- **Note** key words / concepts / terminology used in articles found.
- **Check** cited in and cited by 
- **Locate** key databases, journals and authors.
- **Explore** subject headings (SH) : **Check out SH below the bibliographic details in the catalogue record.** E.g. “religious leader” or “social structure”
- **Use** filters: date, location, type of resource.

Searching within a single journal



JOURNAL
Studies in religion : Sciences religieuses.
1971; SAGE; Print began with v. 1 in June 1971.
PEER REVIEWED
[Online access \(Coverage: From 1999\) >](#)
[View Journal Contents](#)

Send to

READING
LIST

EXPORT RIS

RE

Search inside

Search for articles within this journal

Article title or keyword

communit*

🔍

View Online

Use the catalogue to search within a specific journal.

- Click on the journal title.
- Go to the 'Search inside' section.
- Put your keywords in the search box.
- This will bring up a set of results only from that journal.

[Link](#)



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Trawsnewid Addysg, Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education, Transforming Lives

Search for journals - Browzine

Searching for Journal Articles

BrowZine Library My Bookshelf My Articles

< Change Subject

Philosophy and Religion

CATEGORIES

All Journals

Philosophy

Religion

Arts, Literature, and Religion

Biblical Studies

Catholicism

Christianity and Christian Theology

History of Christianity

Religion and Society

Religion - General/Interdisciplinary

Religion in Asia

Study of Islam

Study of Judaism

Religion and Society

Archives de Sciences Sociales des Religions

Church, Communication and Culture

Contagion: Journal of Violence,

Critical Research on Religion

Journal for Perspectives of Economic Political and Social Integration

Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture

Journal of Church and State

Journal of Law and Religion

Oxford Journal of Law and Religion

Religion and American Culture

Religion and Society: Advances in

Review of Religion and Chinese Society



Explore...

Further Searching Techniques

- Record which databases, journals, websites etc, host the information you find.
- Repeat your search strategy in individual databases.
- Try some of the following databases (**note: It will depend on your research question**).
 - Explore the A-Z database list in the library catalogue to find the best databases for your topic.
 - **YOU** must decide which databases to search and what keywords to use.
 - Look out for **peer-reviewed** journal articles.
 - Searching multiple databases avoids publication bias or geographical bias.
 - Use the extensive filters to expand and refine your results.

Why use individual databases?

The library catalogue searches most of our databases when it performs a search, so why choose to search an individual database?

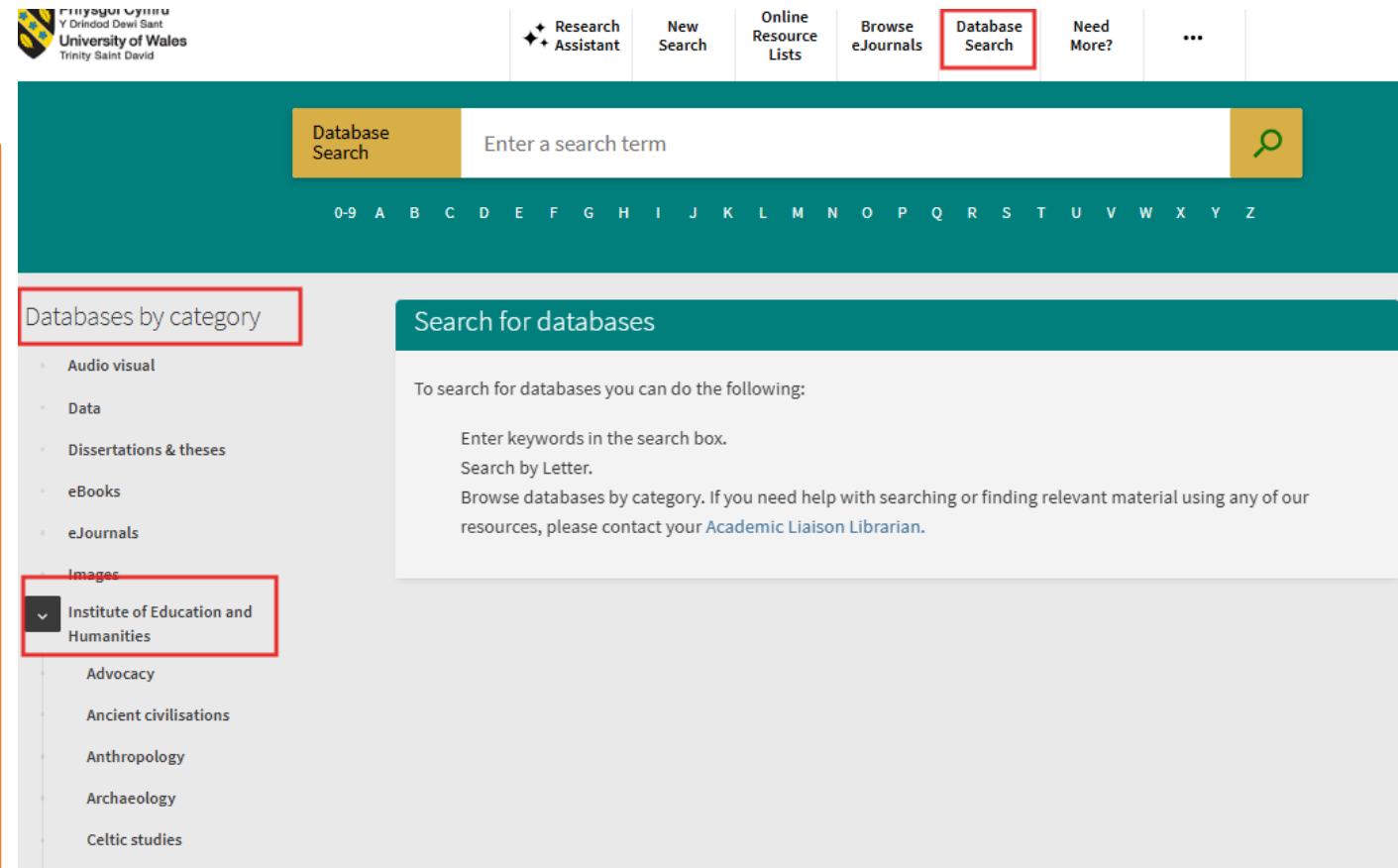
Finding & Using Specialised Information

- More specialised content – fewer, more relevant results.
- More controlled indexing – filter results in greater detail.
- Not every specialist database is indexed by the library catalogue.



Database Search

- Browse databases not searched by the library search:
 - BoB.
 - Digimap.
 - CIS (Construction Information Service).
 - Cite Them Right.
- Go directly to subject specific databases:
 - Humanities Source (EBSCOhost)
 - Academic Search Premier (EBSCOhost)
 - Proquest Central.
 - ATLA Religion (EBSCOhost)
 - Science Direct.

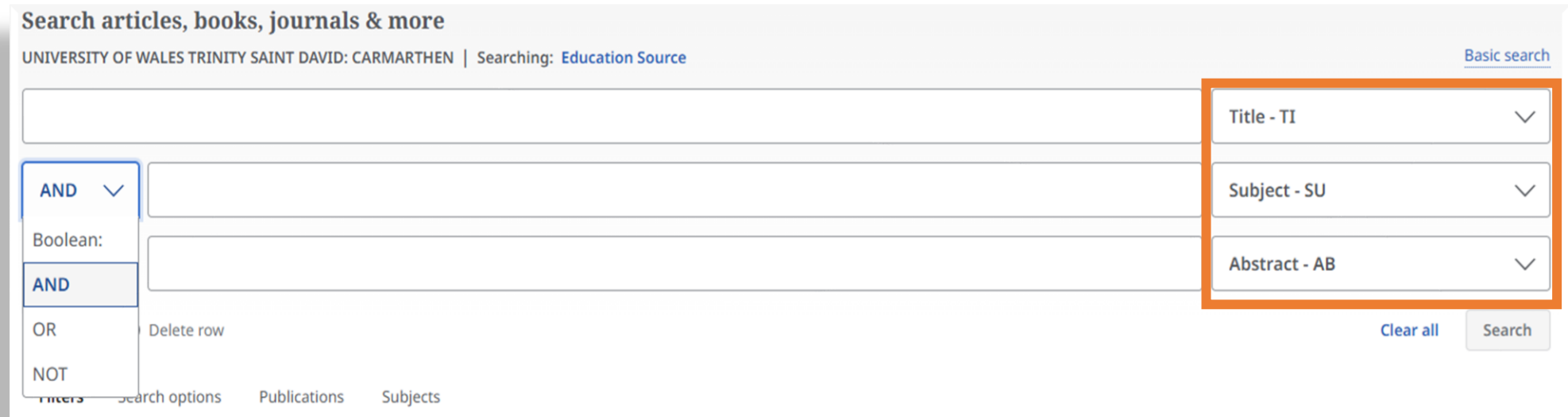


Database Search

Field searching in databases

Database fields offer many more search options. They differ between databases, but many will offer the ability to search for keywords by:

- Author
- Title
- Journal title
- Abstract
- Publisher
- Subject



The screenshot shows a search interface for the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. The header reads "Search articles, books, journals & more" and "UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID: CARMARTHEN | Searching: Education Source". A "Basic search" link is in the top right. The main search area has three input fields. To the left of these fields is a Boolean operator dropdown menu with options: "AND" (selected), "OR", and "NOT". Below the menu is a "Delete row" link. To the right of the input fields is a column of field selection dropdown menus. The first dropdown is "Title - TI", the second is "Subject - SU", and the third is "Abstract - AB". These three dropdowns are highlighted with an orange border. At the bottom right are "Clear all" and "Search" buttons. At the bottom left are links for "Search options", "Publications", and "Subjects".

These help to further narrow your search.

EBSCO: Academic Search Premier & Humanities Source.

Search articles, books, journals & more

UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID: CARMARTHEN | Searching: Religion and Philosophy Collection (and 1 more) [Basic search](#)

religion or religious or religiousness or religions or religiosity or spiritual or spirituality or faith	1	×	Subject Terms - SU	▼
AND ▼	conflict OR violence	×	Abstract - AB	▼
AND ▼	communit*	×	All fields	▼

+ Add row | - Delete row

Filters Search options Publications Subjects

UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID: CARMARTHEN | Searching: Religion and Philosophy Collection (and 1 more)

SU (religion or religious or religiousness or religions or religiosity or spiritual or spirituality or faith) AND AB (conflict OR violence) AND communit*

All filters (2) Full Text **Peer Reviewed** Past 5 years ▼ Source type ▼

All results Images

AI Assisted Search in EBSCO

UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID: CARMARTHEN | Searching: Religion and Philosophy Collection (and 1 more) [Advanced search](#)

How does religion influence conflict and society? [Q](#) [X](#)

[All filters \(0\)](#) [Full Text](#) [Peer Reviewed](#) [All dates](#) [Source type](#)

[All results](#) [Images](#)

☒ AI-assisted search [What's this?](#) [Show refined query](#)

Refined query

((religion OR faith OR belief system OR spirituality) AND (influence OR impact OR affect OR shape) AND (conflict OR tension OR dispute OR strife) AND (society OR social OR community OR civilization))

AI-assisted search

Ask a question or describe what you are looking for, and our system interprets your intent with the help of AI.

Try queries like:

- "How does social media affect mental health in teens?"
- "Why do humans think differently when aging?"
- "Who is Betsy Ross?"
- "Nuclear energy pros and cons"
- "Communication strategies in nursing"

[Link](#)

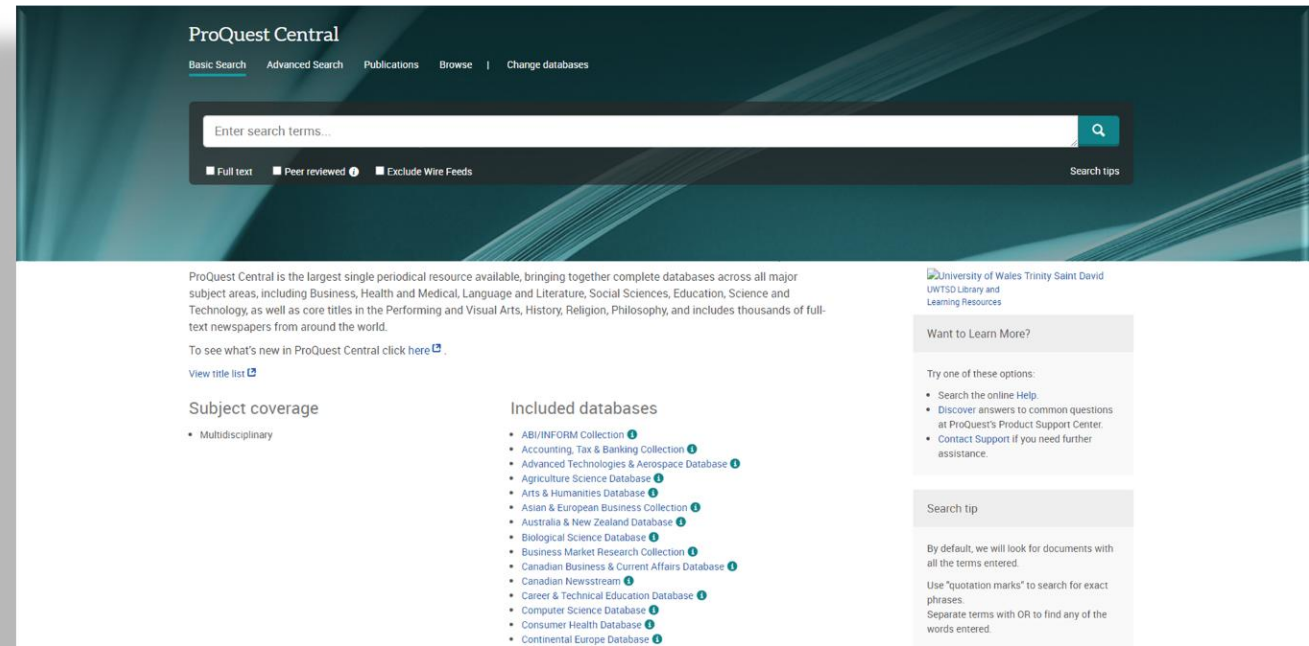
Proquest Central

ProQuest Central is the largest single periodical resource available, it contains complete databases across all major subject areas.

This includes:

- Business.
- **Social Sciences.**
- **Language and Literature.**
- **Social Sciences.**
- **History.**
- Science and Technology.

...and many more.



ProQuest Central

Database: BoB

Search BoB Playlists for: **'conflict religion'**
in Title and description

4 results



Religion and Conflict



Religion and conflict NJW



Religion in an Age of Conflict

Audio-visual resources for Religion in an Age of Conflict

[Search · BoB](#)

Link: Box of Broadcasts

- BoB is a TV and radio service for education.
- Set up a personal account with your UWTDS details.
- Create your playlists or search for public playlists, e.g. “Early Years”
- Create clips with your recordings.

- [Curated Playlists](#)
- [Help](#)
- [How to videos](#)

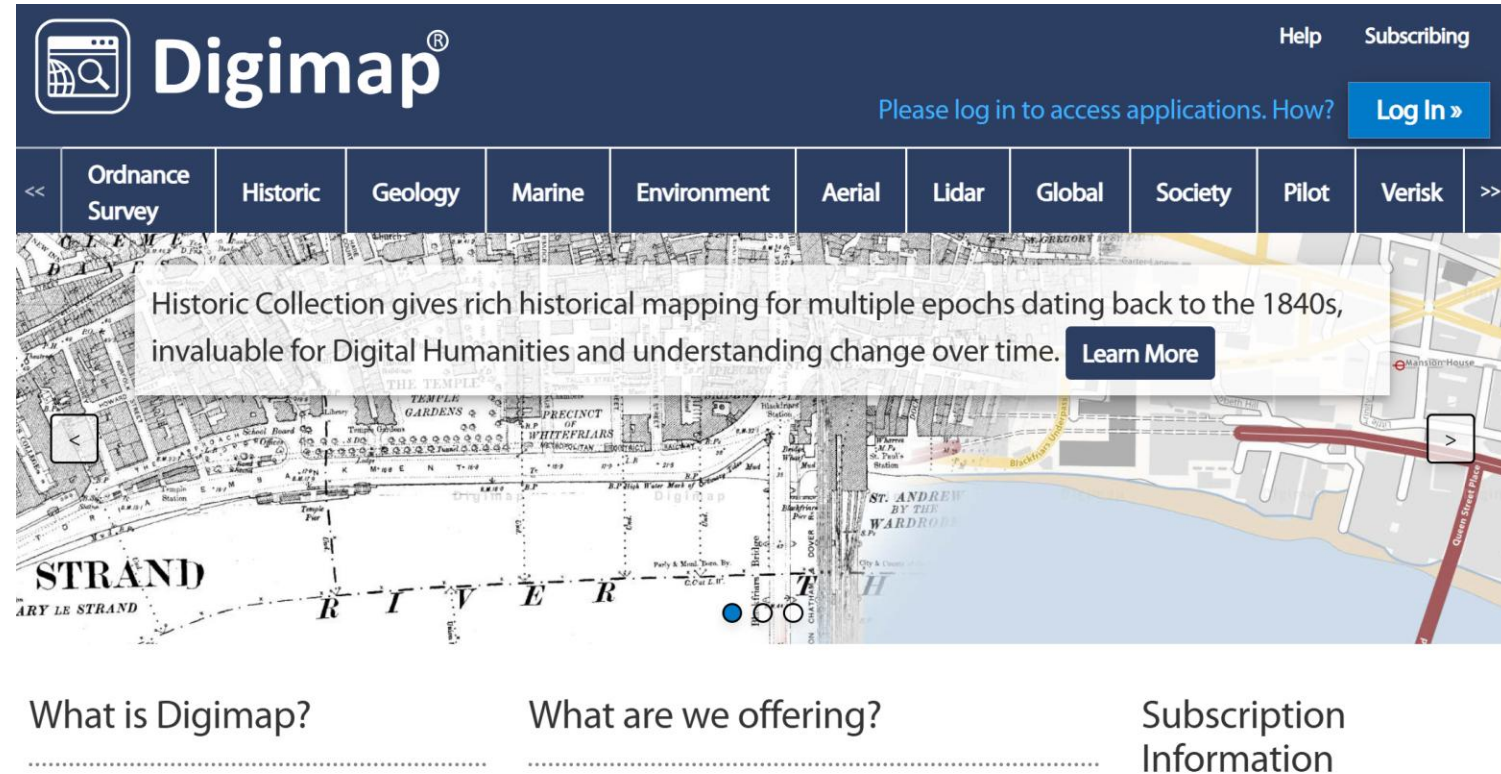
You must create an account using your UWTSD credentials to access!

Digimap

Digimap is an online mapping service that gives UK universities access to a wide range of digital maps and geospatial data.

- Examining historic landscapes
- Location archaeological sites
- Comparing modern and historic mapping
- Using LiDAR and terrain data to identify earthworks and landscape features.

[Digimap](https://digimap.org.uk/)



The screenshot shows the Digimap website interface. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the Digimap logo and a navigation menu with tabs: Ordance Survey, Historic, Geology, Marine, Environment, Aerial, Lidar, Global, Society, Pilot, Verisk, and a 'Log In' button. A text overlay on the map reads: 'Historic Collection gives rich historical mapping for multiple epochs dating back to the 1840s, invaluable for Digital Humanities and understanding change over time. Learn More'. Below the map, there are three sections: 'What is Digimap?', 'What are we offering?', and 'Subscription Information'.

Useful links and resources

PROQUEST Database

- [Advanced search video](#) (6min)
- [Working with your results video](#) (4min)
- [Thesaurus search video](#) (5 min)
- [ProQuest Libguide](#)

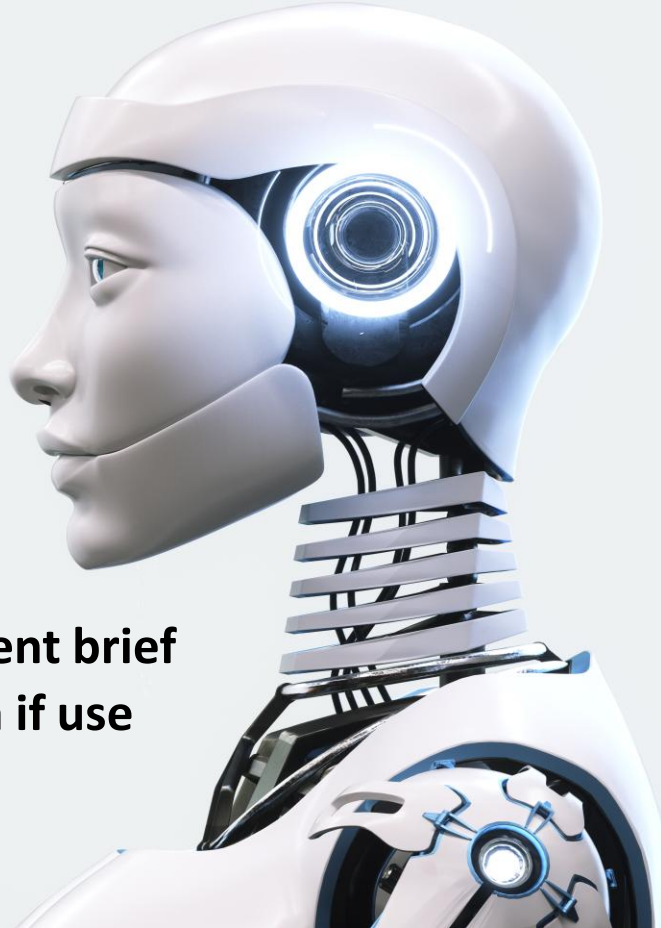
EBSCOhost Databases

- [Introduction to EBSCO](#) (5min)
- [Help for individual databases within EBSCO](#)
- [EBSCO videos \(select language and primary audience - students and researchers\) and apply](#)

What about Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

Know the difference between AI enhanced tools and **Generative AI tools!** Check out our infoskills unit on AI.

Always check your assignment brief and with your tutor to confirm if use of AI is permitted!



Generative AI

- **Use AI tools effectively, critically, ethically** and within permitted guidelines.
- **Be aware of limitations**, e.g. accountability, inaccuracy, bias, unintentional plagiarism, over reliance.
- **Evaluate** all generated text critically.
- **Acknowledge** any AI use.
- **Complete** the AI sections in infoskills.

Search question



How does religion influence conflict and society?

Results.



Note: not all may be available via our library.

 Sources

1 ARTICLE

The role of religion in conflict and peace-making
Nazir-Ali, Michael 2023

2 BOOK

Religion and Conflict Attribution
Anthony, F et al. 2016

3 ARTICLE

Conflict, Conflict Resolution and Peace-Building: The Role of Religion in Mozambique, Nigeria and Cambodia
Haynes, Jeffrey 2009

4 ARTICLE

The role of social capital in shaping religious conflict: A study of Islamic communities in Pasuruan regency, Indonesia
Gubunagi, Bayu Pratama et al. 2026

5 ARTICLE

Religion and intergroup conflict: modern studies of religious fundamentalism
Khukhlaev, O.E. et al. 2018

Results from UWTSD library



View related results on your library search

[Library Results](#)

Further related question prompts.



Related research questions



What role does religion play in the escalation and resolution of social conflicts?



How do religious beliefs shape societal norms and group identities?



In what ways has religion historically contributed to both peacebuilding and violence?

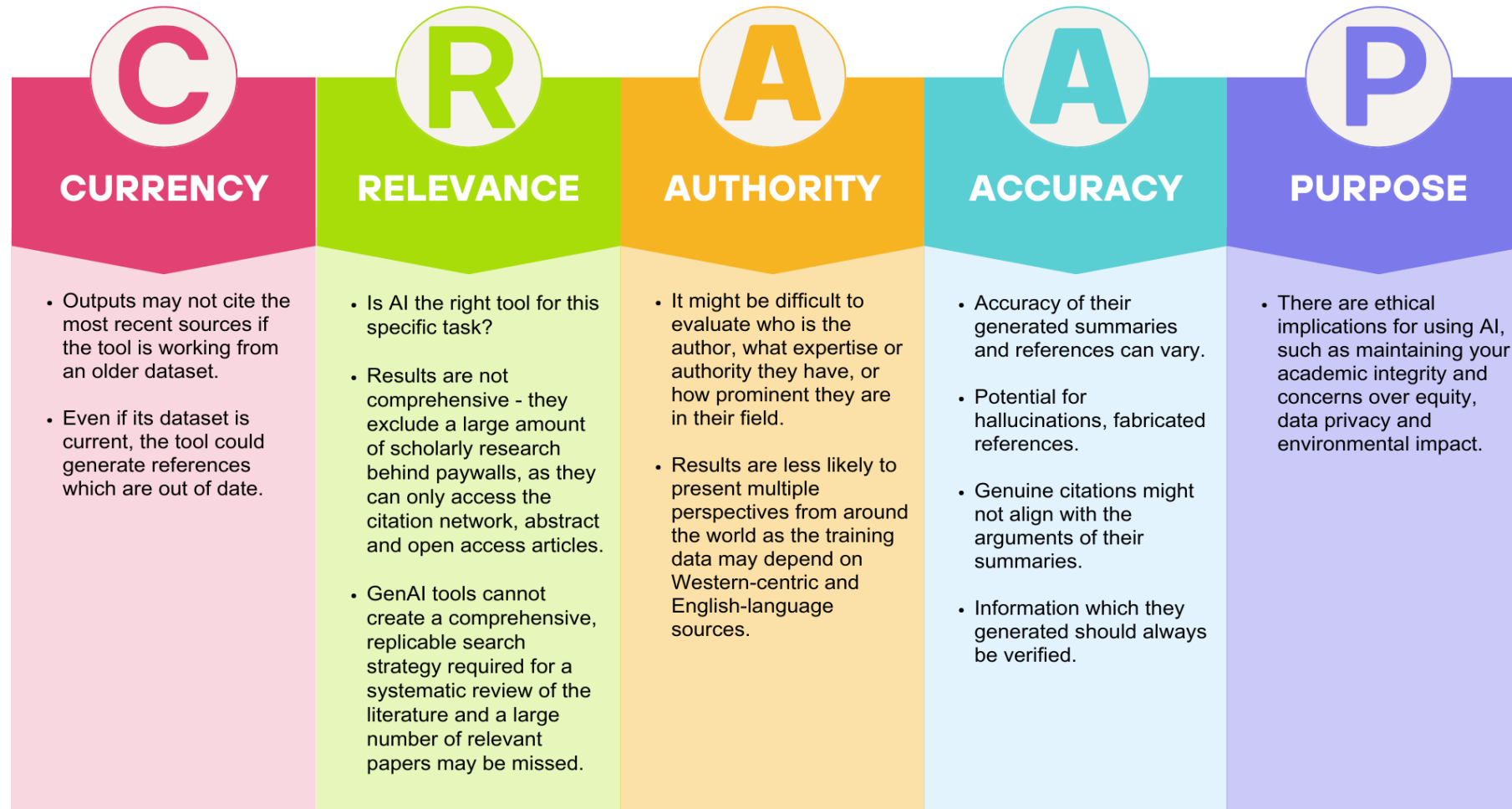


How do different religious traditions impact intergroup relations and social cohesion?



AI CRAAP Test

Generative AI



Adapted and reproduced with kind permission from [Bristol University Library](https://www.bristol.ac.uk/library/).

Grey Literature

Searching the internet

Includes a wide range of information found outside of library databases. It can provide useful statistics, information, opinion, and case studies.

They are not however, typically peer-reviewed.

Sources can include:

- Government information and legislation.
- Non-governmental organisations (NGO's) e.g. World Health Organisation (WHO).
- Professional bodies.
- Charities.

Resources for Research.

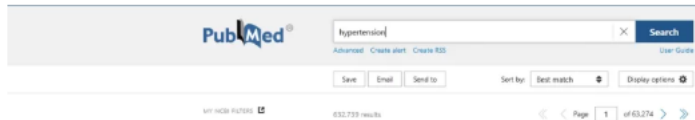
Resources for Research

LibKey Nomad

LibKey Nomad is a browser extension that automatically provides full-text access to journal articles and ebooks subscribed to by UWTSD or open access alternatives while you are carrying out your research on the web.

How does it work?

Libkey Nomad checks a library's holdings information and then checks for open access alternatives to ensure you are directed to the best available version of an article. It also integrates directly with PubMed allowing you to download articles from the search results.



Download LibKey Nomad

Google Scholar

Google Scholar can be a useful research tool, that searches across a wide range of sources and can find articles, theses, book chapters and conference abstracts on there from university repositories and scholarly websites.

How can I make the best use of it?

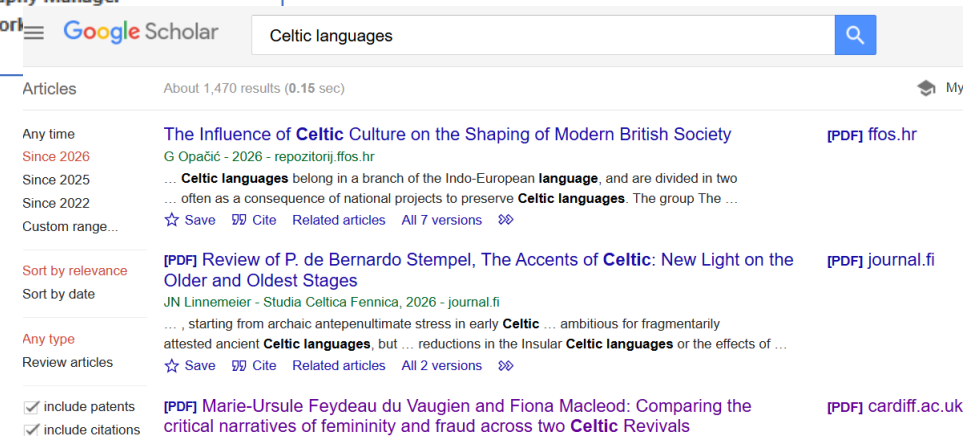
When you are on campus Google Scholar is configured to show the full text-text options available through library subscriptions. Clicking on **View It @UWTSD Library** will take you to the item in the library catalogue.

You can also configure Google Scholar to show this when you are off campus.

1. Go to [Google Scholar](#)
2. from the user menu at the top left of the screen
3. Go to **Library Links**, search for University of Wales Trinity Saint David and select 'View It @UWTSD Library'
4. Click the **save** button

You can also set up Google Scholar to import citations directly into the RefWorks citation manager.

1. Select **settings** from the user menu at the top left of the screen
2. Under the **Search Results** section you'll see the **Bibliography Manager**
3. Under **Show links to import citations into**, select **RefWorks**
4. Click the **save** button



Searching the Internet

Searching the Internet

Domain searching – add to Google search:

- **site:ac.uk** (Academic)
- **site:gov.uk** (UK government)
- **site:wales**
- **site:cymru**
- **site:sch.uk** (Schools)
- **site:nhs.uk** (National Health Service)



Google Scholar

culture conflict site:ac.uk

Q

[Link](#)

Research strategy summary

Literature Review



DEFINE your topic or question.



IDENTIFY key authors, concepts, and keywords.



FIND suitable information sources.



SEARCH refine & repeat.



RECORD by referencing correctly.

Online tutorial.

Academic and infoskills – online help and support

Library Infoskills

Referencing

This Course helps you to understand why referencing is important and which of the 4 recognised referencing standards you should be using:



Unit 1: Academic Integrity & Avoiding Plagiarism



Unit 2: Referencing - Managing Information



Unit 3: Referencing - The Basics



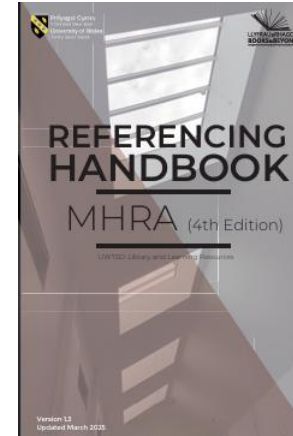
Unit 4: Referencing - The Mechanics



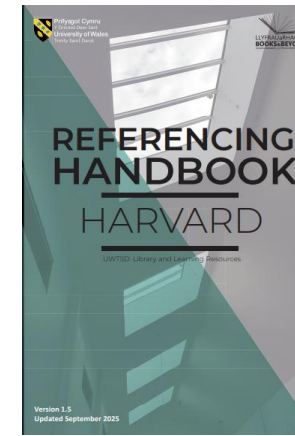
Harvard



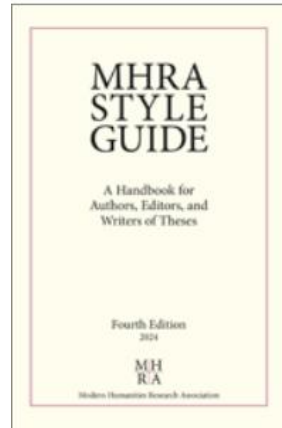
MHRA



[Referencing handbook: MHRA](#)



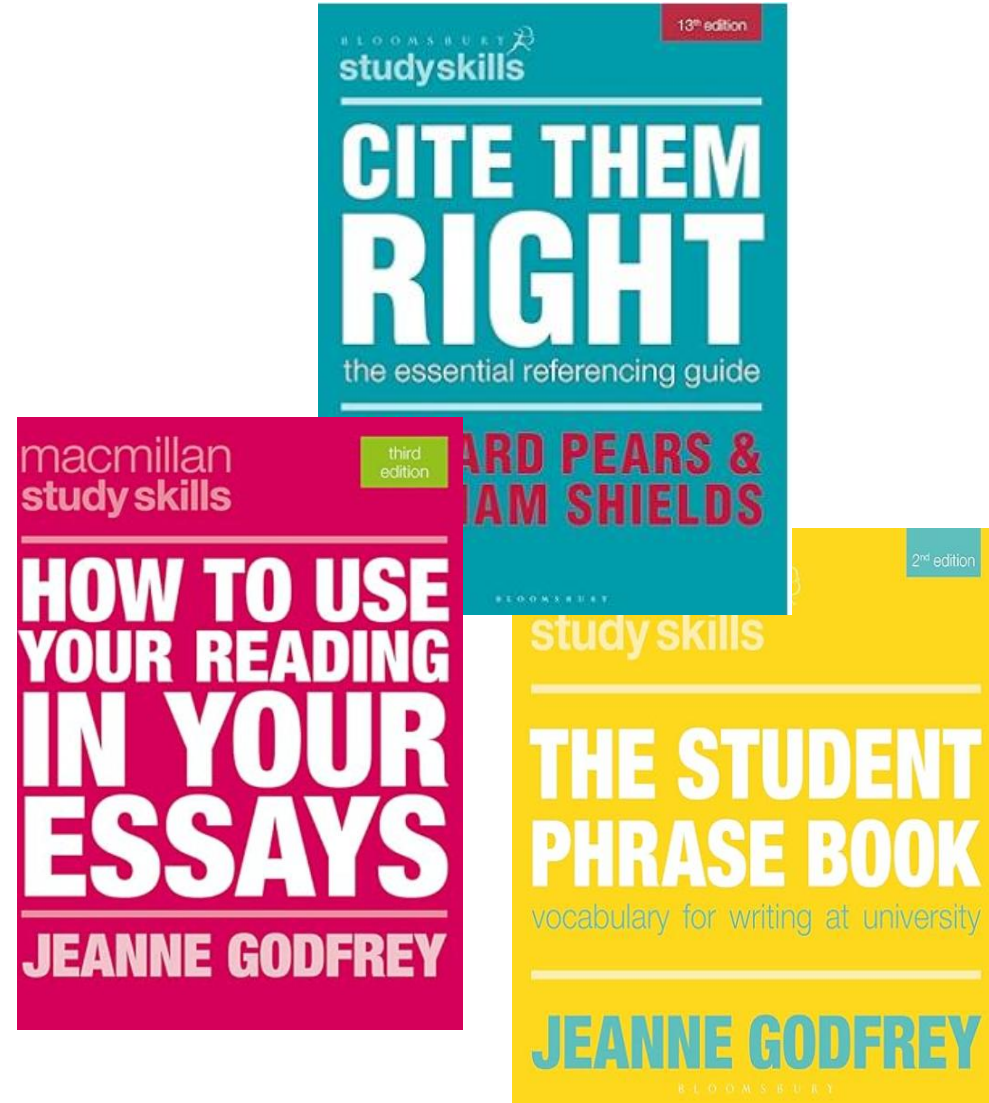
[Referencing handbook: Harvard](#)



[MHRA Style Guide Online](#)

Useful Resources

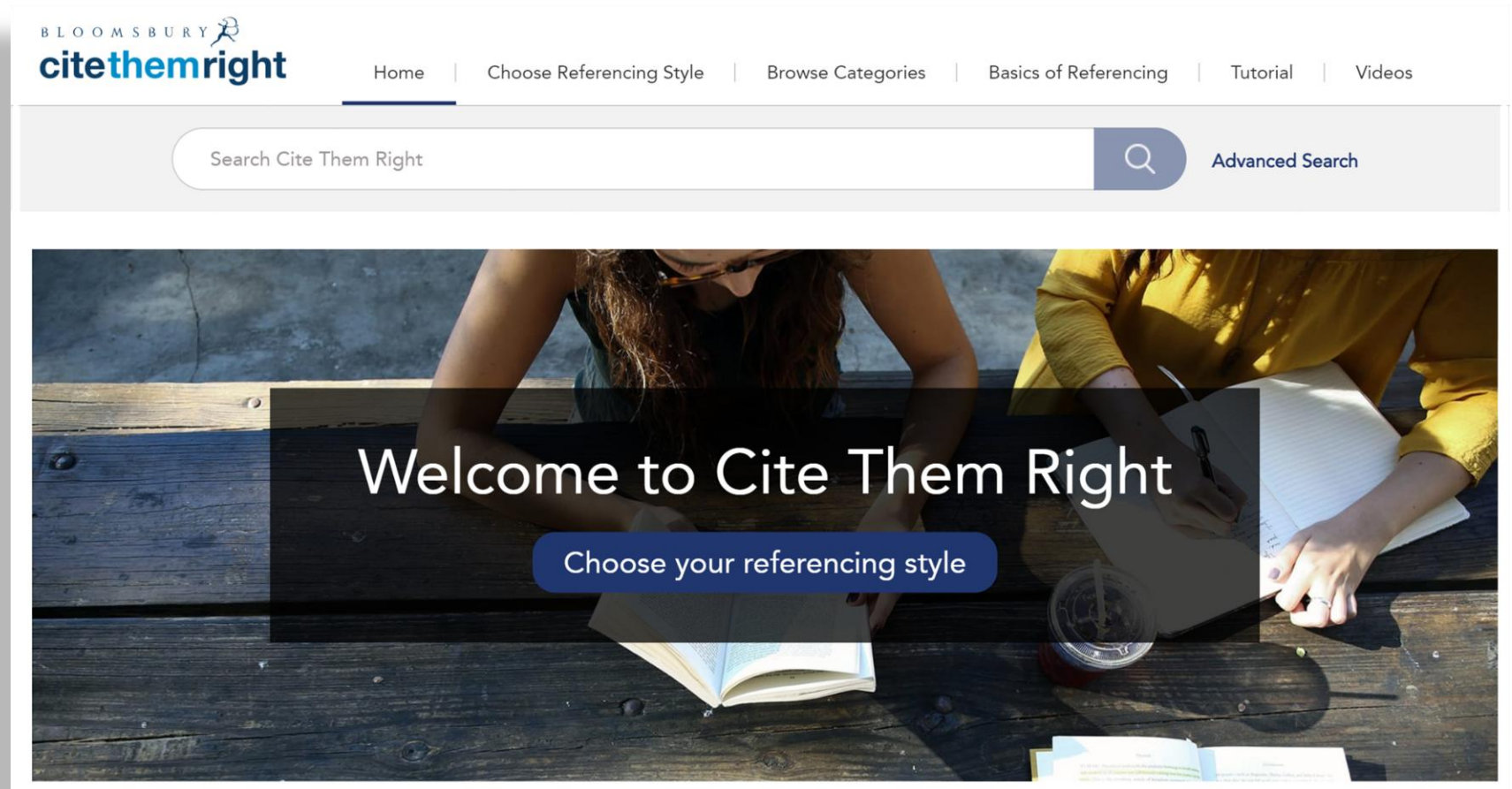
- [How to use your reading in your essays.](#)
- Cite Them Right: [Setting out citations.](#)
- Harvard Referencing: [The Mechanics](#) (infoskills).
- [The Student Phrasebook](#)
- [Manchester University Phrasebank.](#)
- All available in your [LIB02 Reading list.](#)



Database: Cite Them Right

- How to reference.
- Plagiarism.
- Study skills.

[Cite them right online](https://www.citethemright.com/)



Services for distance learners



Using our Libraries



Services for Distance Learners



Accessing Libraries Outside UWTSD

SCONUL Access scheme



The SCONUL Access enables members of any other participating academic libraries in the UK to borrow from any of the institutions listed in the scheme.

[APPLY FOR ACCESS](#)



Need More? Service

Our [Need More?](#) service provides a one-stop shop for all your learning resource needs.

- Something you need that we might already have?
- Something you need that we don't already have?

[Online request form](#)

Can't find what you need? [Contact us for help.](#)



Contact



Source: Pixabay: image by Geralt

Infoskills: infoskills@uwtsd.ac.uk

Library: library@uwtsd.ac.uk

Let us know how we did...

If you have 5 minutes, please scan the QR code and complete our short feedback form.

