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BOOKS & BEYOND

Searching Strategies & Evaluating Sources

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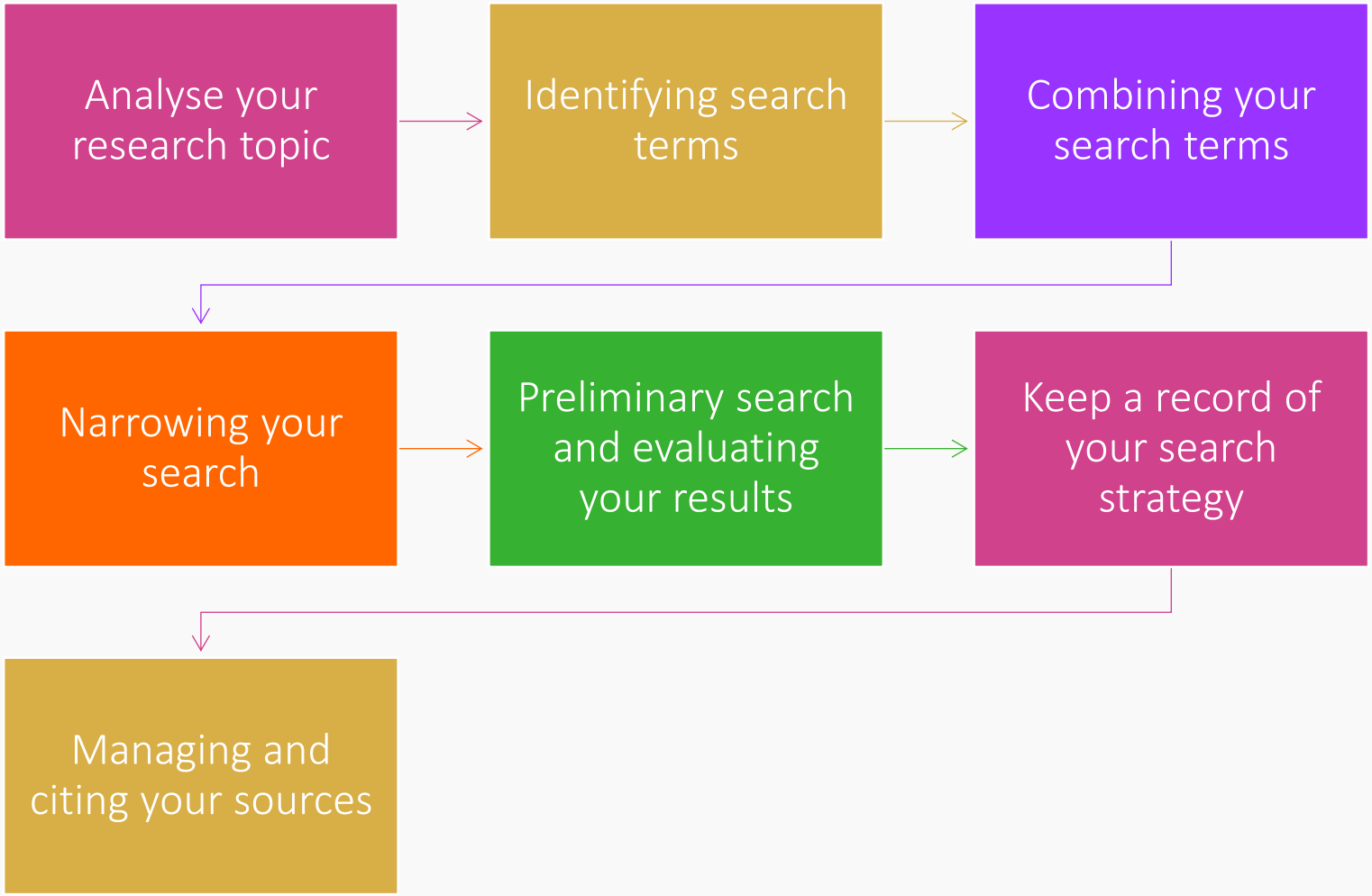
Learning Objectives

- Identify the main keywords and concepts of a question.
- Produce a list of alternative terms or related concepts.
- Combine search terms in an effective search strategy.
- Apply key aspects of the search strategy when using databases
- Critically evaluate sources
- Managing your sources

Seven steps to do an effective searching



Assignment title

How do person-centred care and partnership working interact within professional Health and Social Care policy and practice, and what are the implications for future development in the UK?

Analyse your research topic.

Analyse your research topic

- ✓ Be clear about the type of information that you want.
- ✓ Identify any dates, key persons, geographical locations or concepts which relate to your needs.
- ✓ Break down your research query into a series of relevant words or phrases that you can search for.

Identifying search terms

Identifying search terms

- ✓ It is necessary to choose your search terms correctly.
- ✓ Remember that search tools are machines they will look for whatever you type in, they cannot interpret your thought process
- ✓ Ideally your number of search terms should not exceed 6 to 8 keywords or phrases.

Combining your search terms

Combining your search terms

Use	Use keyworks	Person-centred care
Use	Use synonyms	Patient-focused care; individualised care;
Use	Use ‘and’ ‘or’	Partnership working or multi-agency
Use	Use wildcards	* ? # partner*
Use	Use phrase searching	“person-centred care”

Narrowing your results

Narrowing your search

- ✓ Is there an advanced search screen where you can limit by year of publication?
- ✓ Can you limit your results to a particular type of resource?
- ✓ Many databases include references to book reviews. You can narrow your search by excluding these.
- ✓ Does the database have a results screen or results manager where you can combine searches to make them more specific?
- ✓ Another good tip is to try to limit subject terms to specific geographical areas e.g replace civil liberties with civil liberties in India If you have too few results try to broaden your search to make it more general.

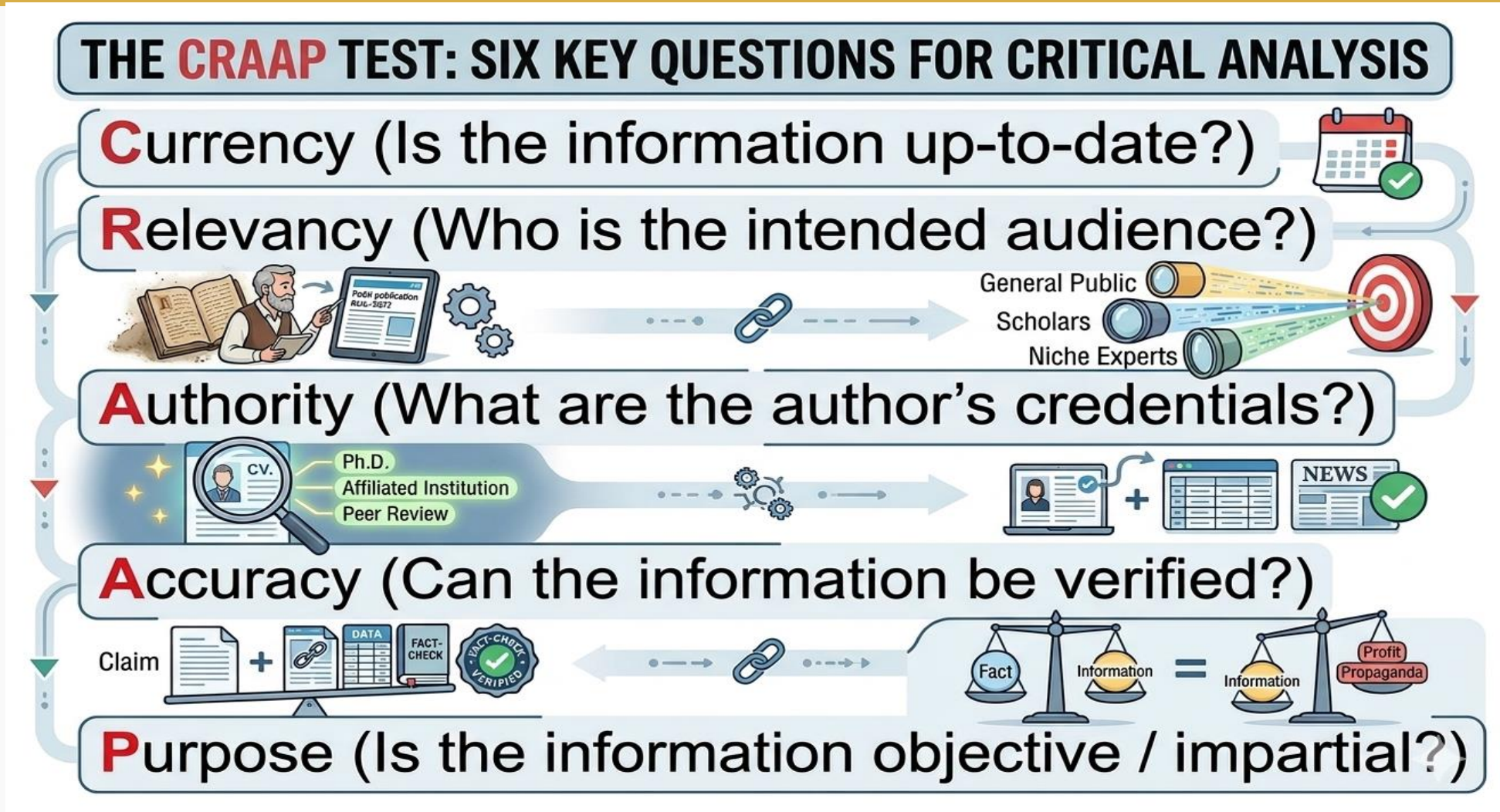
Reviewing and evaluating your results

Preliminary search and evaluating your results

Build in a quality control check to assess your research materials. You should always review your search results and assess them in terms of:

- ✓ Relevance to your research topic. Refine your results to enhance relevance or try different search terms, search tips, databases
- ✓ Academic quality. Not all information is equal! Critical evaluation is especially important with non academic sources (e.g. news sources).
- ✓ Select relevant, reliable, valid sources: Think critically about the information you have retrieved and assess whether to use it to inform your work.

Develop your critical analysis skills



Databases – What are they?

A library database is an online searchable collection of information. Libraries buy subscriptions to databases so learners (like you!) can find useful and interesting information

Why use them?

Because we select databases based on the academic programs offered at UWTSD, you should be able to find lots of relevant resources in the databases we subscribe to for your assignments. More than likely your professor wants you to find reliable, peer reviewed scholarly sources and library databases contain scholarly resources

Library databases contain tons of information:

- scholarly peer-reviewed articles
- newspaper articles
- Academic videos
- book reviews
- magazine articles
- dissertations/theses

Databases via Library Catalogue

Audio visual

Data

eBooks

Images

Newspapers

Referencing

Accounting & finance

Business and management

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

NURSING, HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

APPLIED COMPUTING

ENGINEERING

Choose your databases

Once you have your working title and explored the main library catalogue, you can try more focused searching in individual databases.

- **Note** which (library) database the results are hosted during your scoping review.
- **Choose** the sites that will give you the best results.
- **Create** a personal count to help you record and track your searches.

Possible useful databases

- ProQuest Central
- Pubmed
- EBSCO
- Browzine

Browzine eJournals

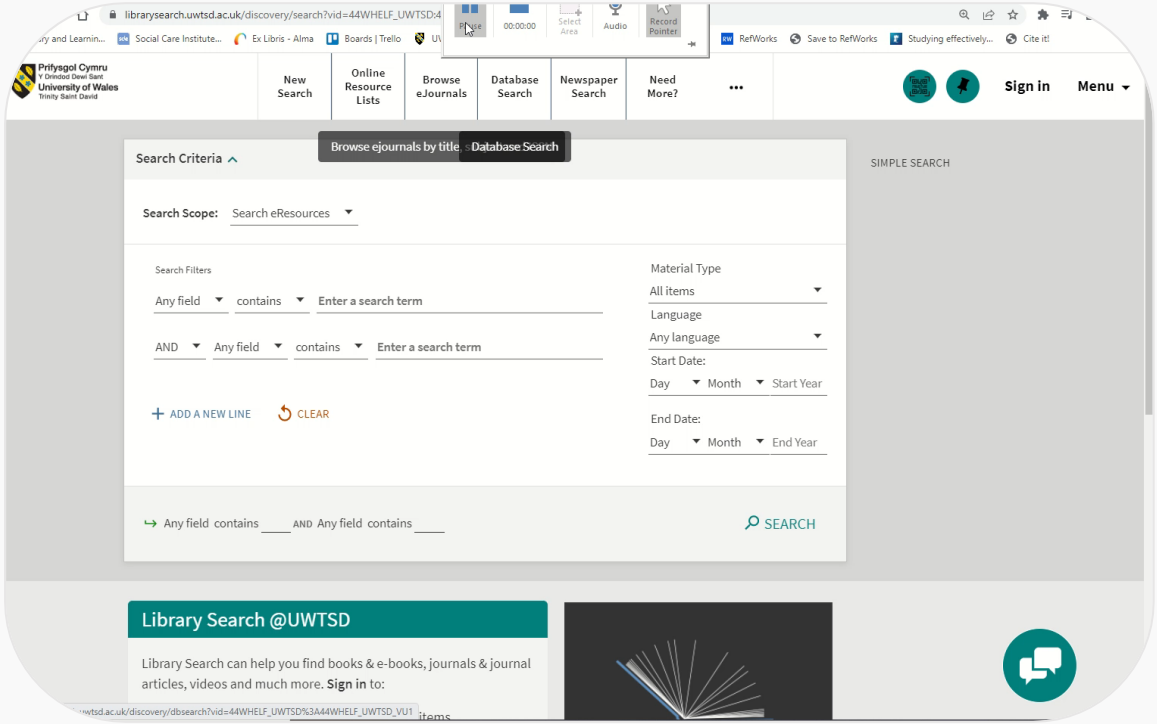
Browzine-How to do a basic search

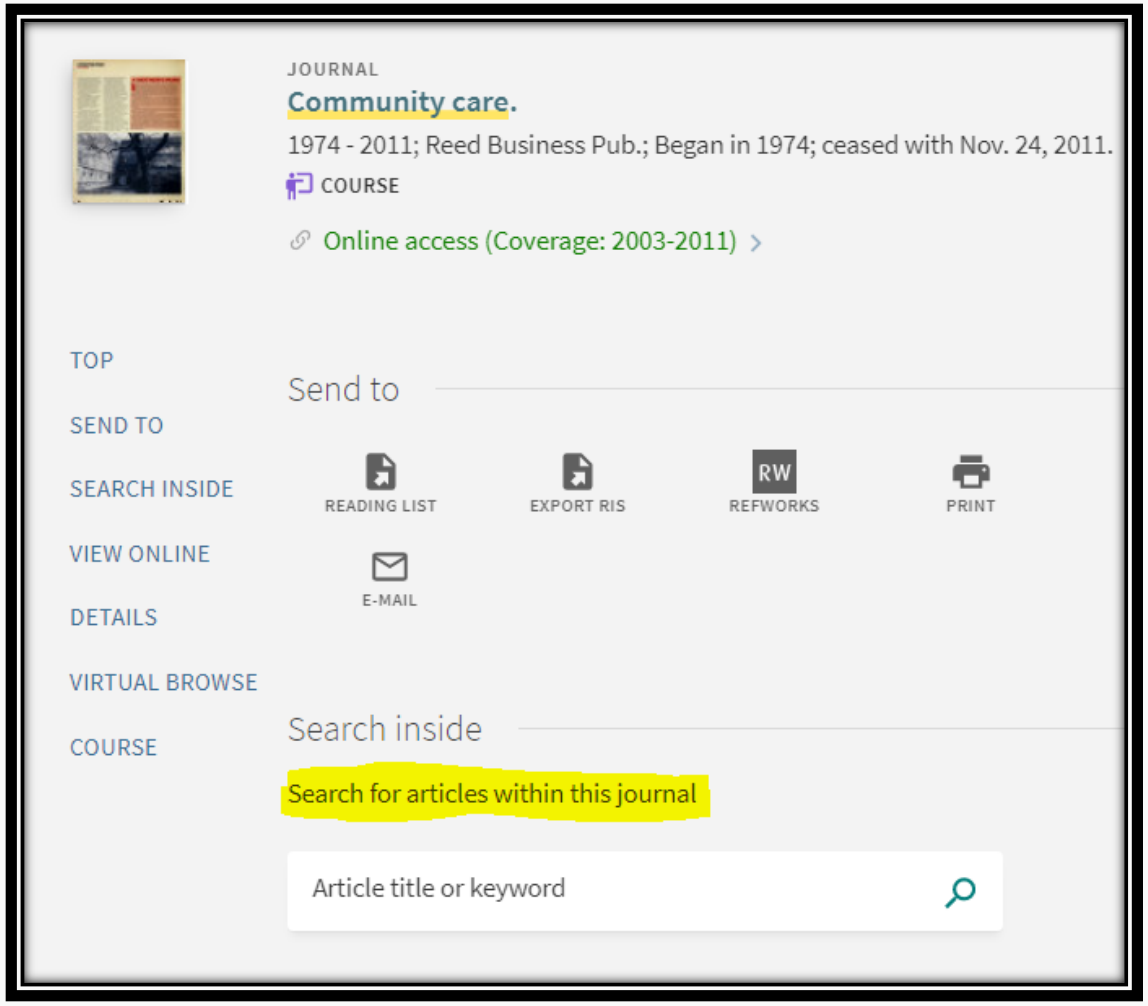
The latest research will always be found in **journals**, not textbooks! You can easily search and access journals articles using the Library Catalogue.

Read the **abstract** to decide whether the article is really useful for you.

Go through the **list of references** at the end of a journal article: you might find resources relevant to your topic!

Search within a journal





Additional useful sites

- Pubmed Search strategy blog

  A useful and searchable resource when starting out developing keywords.

- Cochrane Library

  Great for locating systematic reviews on your topic

- Google Scholar

  Link to the library website

Hints and tips for searching

- Deciding upon your **keywords** before you search will ensure your search finds relevant information quickly.
- Thinks carefully about your **keywords** and try alternatives if necessary
- Be methodical about recording your searching. Keeping a note of which keywords you have used will help avoid duplication
- You need to keep an accurate record of all the sources you would like to use in your work
- **Save** your search or individual resources for future use
- Try setting up **email alerts** for your research topic

My research/dissertation question:	How do person-centred care and partnership working interact within professional Health and Social Care policy and practice, and what are the implications for future development in the UK?'			
Synonyms	Person-centred care Patient-centered care Personalised support	Partnership Working Interprofessional working	Health and Social Care NHS Public health	UK United Kingdom Britain
Places to search for information:	Databases:- PubMed NewsBank ProQuest	Browzine		

List of sources searched:	Date of search	Search strategy used, including any limits	Total number of results found	Comments
Proquest Central	04/05/2026	Personalised support + partnership working in the NHS		

Referencing

Referencing Website

Available via the library web pages

- Theory and practical examples

RefWorks An online referencing management service supported by the library and UWTSD. Create your own account.

Managing and citing your sources

Managing and citing your sources

- ✓ Organise your references: Keep track of the information you retrieve so you can come back to it and acknowledge it in your work.

- ✓ Acknowledge and cite appropriately: Follow standardised protocols for consistent and accurate referencing of your information sources in your work.
- ✓ Referencing software tools
- ✓ Save to your favourites
- ✓ Ask a librarian

Legislation

- Legislation – the process of making or enacting laws.
- For the UK: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/

- **In text citations** depends on whether you are looking at the WHOLE Act or just a section of it.
- **Reference List** is the same regardless.

Reference List

Health and Care Act 2022, c. 31. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/31/contents (Accessed: 24th May 2024).

Legislation

- In Text Citations

For the Whole Act:

The legislation (*Fire Safety Act 2021*) was too late to prevent the Grenfell disaster.

For a section of the Act:

As defined in section 10(2) of the Act (*Children Act 2004*) ...

****Section and point number**

What would the citations be?

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/31/contents

Book Chapter and Conference Paper

Book Chapter

- Author of the chapter/section (surname followed by initials)
- Year of publication (in round brackets)
- Title of chapter/section (in single quotation marks)
- 'in' plus author/editor of book
- Title of book (in italics)
- Place of publication: Publisher
- Page reference

Rogers, H.L., Raposo, V., Vajagic, M. and Knezevic, B (2022) 'Person-Centred Care Implementation: Design and Evaluation Considerations', in Kriksciuniene, D. and Sakalauskas, V. (ed.) *Intelligent Systems for Sustainable Person-Centered Healthcare*. Springer

Conference Paper

- Author / name of organisation
- Year of publication (in round brackets)
- Title (in italics)
- Reference number (if available)
- Place of publication: Publisher
- Or if accessed on the internet:
- Available at: DOI *or* URL (Accessed: date)

Morera-Balaguer, J. *et al.* (2021) *Patients' experience regarding therapeutic person-centered relationships in physiotherapy services: A qualitative study*, *Physiotherapy Theory and Practice*. Taylor & Francis, pp. 17–27. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1080/09593985.2019.1603258.

Further help/support contact

infoskills@uwtsd.ac.uk

01212293018

BOOK A 1-1 APPOINTMENT

Available 7 days a week

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STUDENTS
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