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Essential Skills: Library InfoSkills

Trawsnewid Addysg, Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education, Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk

Session Objectives

In this session we will:

- Identify the academic and information skills support available through UWTSD Library & Learning Resources.
- Reflect on their current academic strengths and areas for development using a SWOT analysis.
- Develop a personal action plan for using support services throughout the academic year.
- Recognise how academic skills contribute to academic success and employability.

This session will be useful for your professional development as you will be learning how to research information, use research and develop digital skills.

Session Schedule

Discovering Academic and InfoSkills Support	- 20mins
Personal SWOT analysis	- 25mins
Break	- 15mins
Completing an InfoSkills Unit	- 20 mins
Reflection and discussion	- 10mins
Personal Action Plan	- 10mins
The SCONUL access system	- 10mins
Reflection	- 10mins

UWTSD Library Resources

What Makes a Successful Student?

What skills do successful university students need?



Talk to the person next to you and note down **four skills** that students need for success.

Feedback to the group



Skills for success

- Time management
- Research skills
- Referencing
- Reading academic texts
- Confidence
- Critical thinking
- Digital skills



Did you list any of these skills?

Skills for success

Many students believe successful students are naturally intelligent.

Research suggests success is more strongly linked to:

- Effective study habits
- Information literacy
- Academic skills
- Seeking support when needed

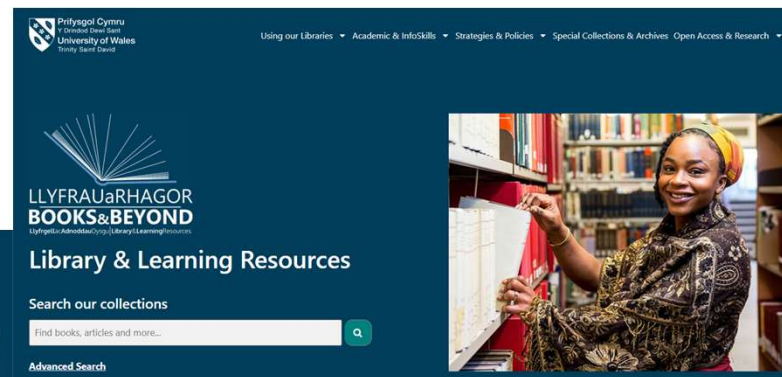
A key to success is:
Understanding what
support exists and
creating a plan to use it
effectively.

UWTSD Academic and Infoskills

The UWTSD Library offers much more than just access to reading materials.

The UWTSD InfoSkills training area provides training for study success.

Explore the [Infoskills webpage](#)



Finding and Using Information

Finding and using information requires you to think about the kind of information you need, where to find it, and how to evaluate it.



Referencing and Plagiarism

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



Researchers

Introducing topics including Open Access Publishing and Research Data Management.

Personal SWOT analysis

Personal SWOT Analysis

A SWOT analysis helps identify:

- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Strengths

What am I already good at?

Weaknesses

What do I need to improve?

Opportunities

What support exists?

Threats

What might stop me succeeding?

Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Threats

Personal SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Threats

Complete the SWOT analysis tool available on Moodle or in your own notebook.

Focus your SWOT analysis on your own academic skills.

Completing a training unit

Finding and Using Information

Finding and using information requires you to think about the kind of information you need, where to find it, and how to evaluate it.

This course is made up of four units:

Unit 1:
Identifying Information

Unit 2:
Searching for information

Unit 3:
Advanced Searching

Unit 4:
Evaluating Information

Visit the UWTSD Infoskills training page and complete one of the units for the Finding and Using Information page.

Reflect – Which of these skills do I feel confident using?
Which skills do I need more support to improve?



<https://digitalservices.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/academic-and-infoskills/finding-and-using-information/>

Academic Liaison Librarians

Access support

Meet Your Academic Liaison Librarian

Who Are They?

Your Academic Liaison Librarian is a specialist member of the Library & Learning Resources team who works closely with students and academic staff to support learning, research, and academic success.

Think of your Academic Liaison Librarian as your personal guide to finding, evaluating and using information effectively throughout your university studies



[Book an Appointment](#)

Make a Booking

[Book a Librarian](#)

[Book a Digital Skills Advisor](#)

Reflect and discuss

Have you used the UWTSD Info Skills before?

- If yes, what did you learn?
- If no, what is stopping you?

Have you met with an Academic Liaison Librarian before?

- If Yes, what support did you receive?
- If no, think about what is stopping you.

Personal Action Plan

Create an action plan

Looking at your SWOT Analysis...

- What is your biggest academic strength?
- What is your biggest academic development need?
- Which opportunity could help you improve?
- Which threat could prevent progress?

Which weakness would have the biggest impact on your success if you improved it?

Create an action plan

Set yourself a development goal for your academic skills.

A good goal is:

- Specific
- Achievable
- Relevant
- Time-bound

"I want to improve my academic skills."

This type of goal is too vague.

An improved goal could be:

"I want to improve my referencing before my first assignment."

"I want to learn how to find peer-reviewed journal articles."



Create an action plan

Think about the support available to you at UWTSD

Development Need	Support Resource
Finding sources	Searching for Information Unit
Evaluating sources	Critical Thinking Unit
Referencing	Referencing Handbook
Literature searching	Librarian Appointment
Research organisation	RefWorks
Academic confidence	Academic & InfoSkills Modules
Study skills	Digital Skills Advisor

Create an action plan

- Complete the Personal Action Plan task on Moodle.



The SCONUL system



The SCONUL system

SCONUL Access Scheme can be one of the most valuable academic resources available to you. The system enables students to gain access to library spaces in different universities.

- SCONUL (Society of College, National and University Libraries) allows eligible students to access participating university libraries across the UK and Ireland. For most full-time undergraduate students, this means reference access to study spaces, books, journals and library facilities within participating institutions.
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How to apply for SCONUL access

How to Apply as a UWTSD Student

- **Step 1:** Check Your UWTSD Library Account
- **Step 2:** Gather Your Details
 - UWTSD email address
 - UWTSD ID card
 - Library number from your ID card
- **Step 3:** Apply Online
 - Use the official SCONUL Access website: SCONUL Access Application Portal
- **Step 4:** Receive Your Approval
- **Step 5:** Register at the Library You Wish to Use



Personal Progress Padlet

There are **no formal assessments** within 'Essential Skills' classes but you are encouraged to keep your Personal Progress Padlet.

Note down in your Personal Progress Padlet:

- What have you learnt today?
- How will you use this new skill?

Traffic Light *it*



	<i>Where is your learning at ?</i>
Red	I have misunderstood some of the topics. (write down 2 questions that you need help with)
Amber	I have understood most of the topics so far (write down 1 question and 1 key theme you have understood)
Green	I have understood the topics so far (write down 2 key themes from the lesson to show your understanding)