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Getting started with your dissertation or major project

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Library & Learning Resources

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO PLAN AHEAD

You will learn how to

- Build a search strategy
- Make the most of the library catalogue
- Search specialist databases
- Evaluate information
- Search the internet effectively
- Use our Need More? Service
- Manage your information
- Develop transferable skills



Building a search strategy

- Have a clear idea of your topic
- Define your topic area
- Set limits on your search
- Use relevant articles to find additional resources
- Keep a record
- Review your progress

***Handout available – please ask!**



Making the most of the library catalogue

Our version of Compare-the-market.com!

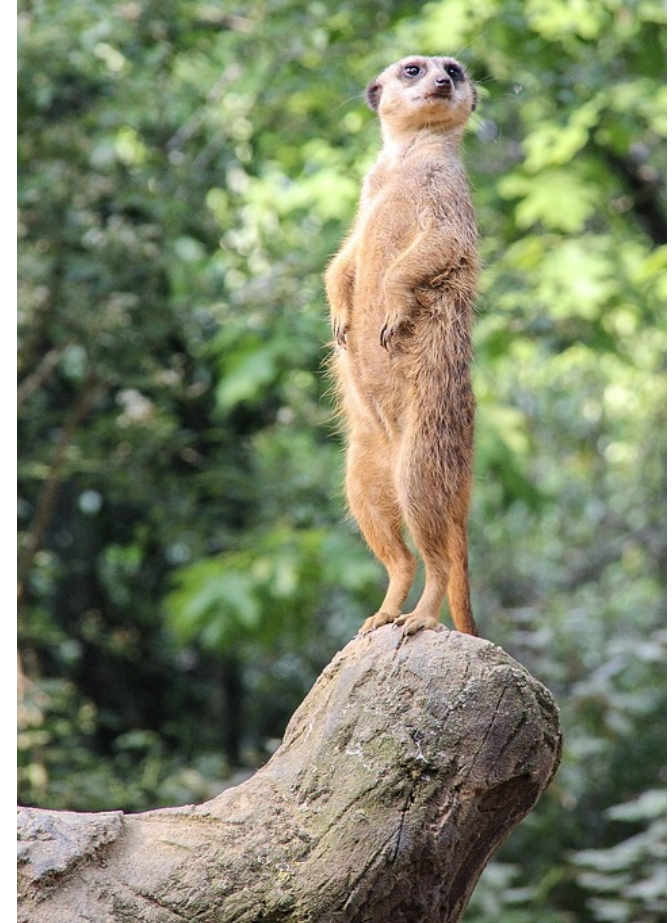
Search for information

- Find printed items and electronic resources – eBooks, full-text journal articles, conference proceedings, reviews ... and much more!

Manage information

- My account
- Save and organise favourite resources, set alerts

[Library Catalogue](#)



Now it's your turn!

- Go to the [library catalogue](#)
- **Sign in** using your UWTSD login & password

Search for book titles on: ***Research Methods***

- Narrow the date range to the last **5 years!**
- Find a **printed book**
- ...and an **e-book**
- **Save anything useful** to your favourites



What is a database?

- Provides online access to published content
- General or specialised subjects
- Fully searchable, often full-text access
- Up-to-date information
- Academically creditable
- Peer reviewed content
- Subscription based



[Database video](#)

Finding and accessing relevant databases

General, specialised or news databases

- Accessible via [Online Library](#)
- Login required when off campus
- View all
- View by subject

Do you know which databases to use??



Now it's your turn ...

- Go to the **Online Library** here: <http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/online-library/>
- Think of a **topic** you're interested in OR have already chosen for your dissertation/major project

Using one of the databases we have discussed:

- Try finding full text **journal articles** which have been published within the last **6 years**.
- Can you find any **peer reviewed** articles?
- Can you find the resources read by the author?
- Look at possible **alternative terms** to describe your topic
- Try **emailing an article** to yourself or **setting up an email alert** for your topic!

Open Access – What's that?

- Scholarly research
- Freely available to all
- Published in online journals
- Deposited in [institutional repositories](#)
- Search with Google Scholar
- Makes research available quicker and more widely



Evaluating information

- **C**urrency (Is the information up-to-date?)
- **R**elevancy (Who is the intended audience?)
- **A**uthority (What are the author's credentials?)
- **A**ccuracy (Can the information be verified?)
- **P**urpose (Is the information objective / impartial?)

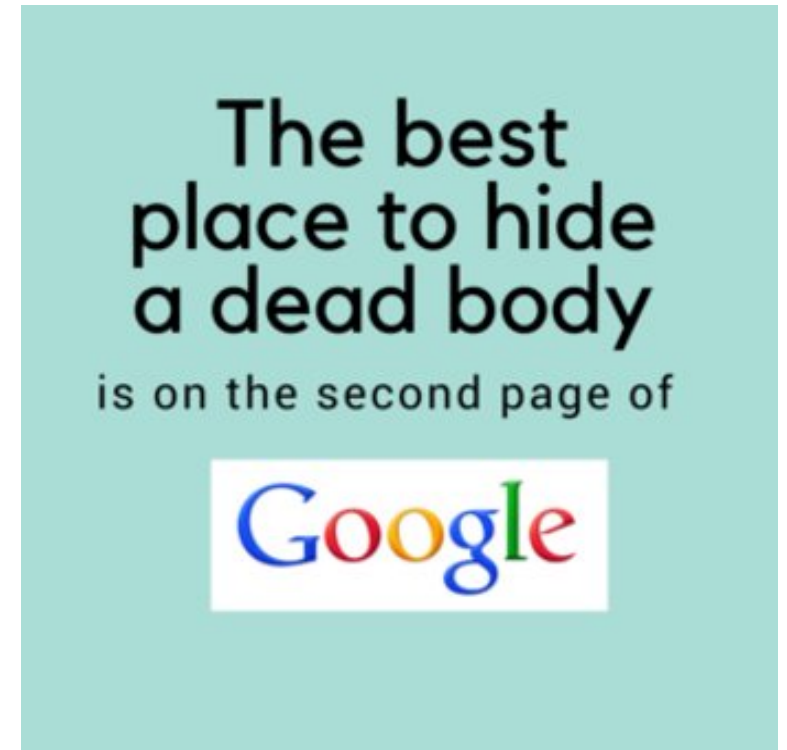
*Handout available – please ask!



[Video: Evaluating Information Sources](#)

Tips for searching the internet

- Use unique terms that are specific to your subject
- Try “phrase searching” to locate exact terms
- Use the wildcard symbol to include word variants
e.g. Engineer*
- Try domain searching:
 site:ac.uk (Academic)
 site:gov.uk (UK Government)
 site:wales.gov.uk (Welsh Government)
- Remember the **CRAAP** test
- Look past the first page of results!



[Filter Bubbles Video](#)

Need More?

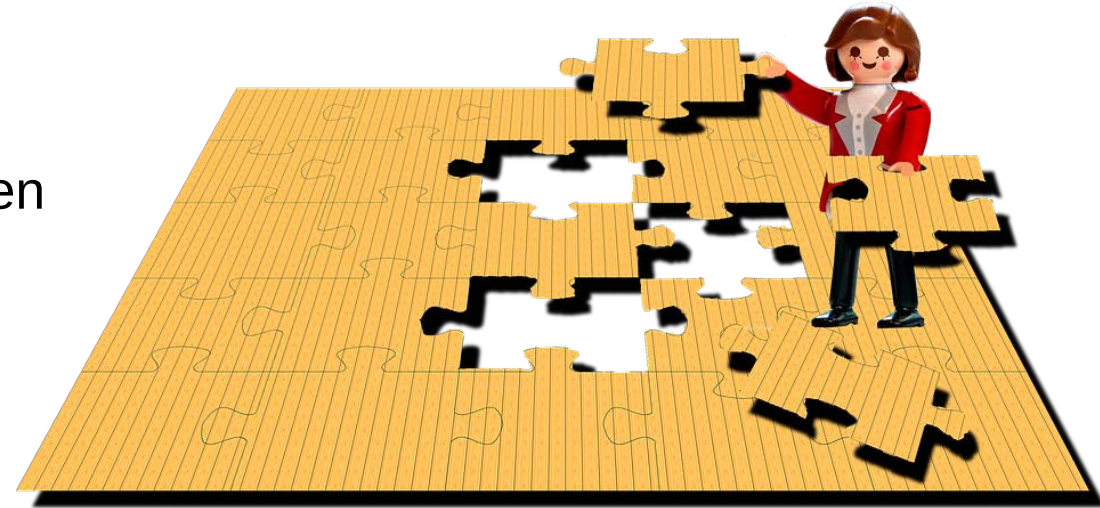
- Can't find what you need?
- Advice
- Book an appointment
- Request a resource
- Report a fault
- Borrowing schemes

[Need More?](#)



Managing your information

- Keep **consistent records** of what you have read from the start.
- Consider using the information management tools available via the library catalogue & other databases.
- Be aware of **copyright** regulations.
- Read your **Referencing Handbook** and refer to it when necessary.
- Consider using bibliographic tools such as RefWorks.



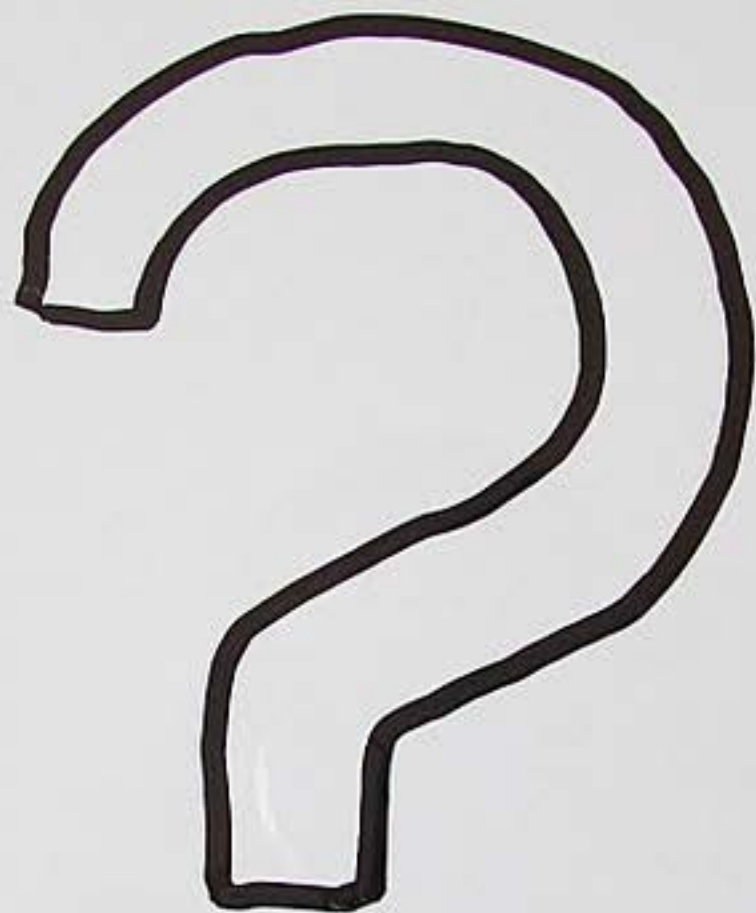
Transferable skills

We live in a **Knowledge Economy**, which is directly based on the production, distribution and use of knowledge and information

Employers are looking for:

- Research skills and critical thinking
- Communication – written reports, presentations, social media
- IT and technical skills – organisational and collaborative tools
- Problem solving and working under pressure
- Personal management: reflection on skills and training needs





For more information

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