

Academic writing: theory and practice for best results

Dr Philip Scott

MSc Programme Director, UWTSD

Muntaha Alam Nafisa

Lecturer in Health & Care Informatics, UWTSD



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

Learning outcomes

1. Outline how to search the academic literature proficiently.
2. Describe how to cite literature correctly and avoid plagiarism.
3. Explain four key principles of good academic writing.
4. Identify three writing tips you will start to apply.

Literature search overview

Literature search

- What to search
- Where to search
- How to search

Literature management

- How to collect
- How to cite
- How to distinguish

What to Search? Types of Literature:



ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Live polls



Types of Literature:

31 >



What to look for in a Standard Literature?

31



Audience Q&A Session

4

Types of Literature:



What to Search

Types of Literature:

Primary Literature

Original research results in journals

conference proceedings

dissertations

Thesis

Secondary Literature

Review articles

systematic reviews

meta-analysis,

Organisational guidelines

Policy and regulations

Tertiary Literature

Textbooks

Manuals. Handbooks

Newspapers

Organisational report

Website, Blogs

social media posts



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

Where to search Literature



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

200
1822 - 2022

[Study](#) [About](#) [Student Life](#) [International](#) [Research](#) [Alumni](#) [Q](#)

LIBRARY AND LEARNING RESOURCES



LLYFRAUaRHAGOR
BOOKS&BEYOND
Llyfrgell a Chnodau Dysgu | Library & Learning Resources

Find books, articles and more...

SEARCH

ADVANCED SEARCH

  MY LIBRARY ACCOUNT

 NEED MORE?

▼ SCROLL FOR MORE...

Where to search Literature



Search Criteria ^

Search Scope: Search eResources ▼

Search Filters

Any field ▼ contains ▼ Enter a search term

AND ▼ Any field ▼ contains ▼ Enter a search term

+ ADD A NEW LINE

↻ CLEAR

Material Type

All items ▼

Language

Any language ▼

Start Date:

Day ▼ Month ▼ Start

End Date:

Day ▼ Month ▼ End Y

→ Any field contains _____ AND Any field contains _____

 SEARCH

SIMPLE SEARCH

Where to search Literature



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

[New Search](#)[Online Resource Lists](#)[Browse eJournals](#)[Database Search](#)[Newspaper Search](#)[Need More?](#)[...](#)



Nafisa, Muntaha



My Library Account

[OVERVIEW](#)[LOANS](#)[REQUESTS](#)[FINE + FEES](#)[BLOCKS + MESSAGES](#)[PERSONAL DETAILS](#)

Loans



There are no loans

Requests



There are no requests

Fine + fees

[PAY FINE](#)



There are no fines

Blocks + messages



There are no blocks or messages

Where to search Literature



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

[New Search](#)[Online Resource Lists](#)[Browse eJournals](#)[Database Search](#)[Newspaper Search](#)[Need More?](#)[...](#)



Nafisa, Muntaha



My Library Account

[OVERVIEW](#)[LOANS](#)[REQUESTS](#)[FINE + FEES](#)[BLOCKS + MESSAGES](#)[PERSONAL DETAILS](#)

Loans



There are no loans

Requests



There are no requests

Fine + fees

[PAY FINE](#)



There are no fines

Blocks + messages



There are no blocks or messages

Where to search Literature



Knowledge and Library Hub

Searching: Health and care evidence, from Health Education England

Keyword

Enter any words

Search

Create Alert

[Search Options](#) [Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [PICO Search](#) [Search History](#)

Please enter search term(s).

Clinical decision making

[BMJ Best Practice](#)
[NICE Guidelines](#)

In-depth searching

[AMED](#)
[British Nursing Index](#)
[CINAHL](#)
[Cochrane Library](#)
[EMBASE](#)
[EMCARE](#)
[HMIC \(Health Management Information Consortium\)](#)
[Medline](#)
[PsycINFO](#)
[Pubmed](#)
[Social Policy & Practice](#)
[Trip Pro Database](#)

Other resources

[Directory of Health Libraries](#)
[NHS Learning Hub](#)
[Patient Experience Library](#)
[Health literacy: you can make a difference](#)
[How to search the literature effectively](#)
[Knowledge Mobilisation Framework](#)
[National Grey Literature Collection](#)
[NIHR Evidence](#)

NHS OpenAthens

[OpenAthens Registration](#)
[OpenAthens Password Reset](#)
[Having Problems with OpenAthens?](#)

[Top of Page](#)

© 2022 EBSCO Industries, Inc. All rights reserved.

NHS Funded/commissioned courses in HE/FE institutions (ns200038)



University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

www.library.nhs.uk

Where to search Literature



Existing Users - Log in

Email *

Password *

Log in

[I forgot my password](#)

Or use your accounts with these existing services to sign-in to FutureNHS:

Log In with NHS England Apps

[What are these?](#)

Need an Account?

If you have not registered already, you'll need to complete our easy registration process.

Email *

Your email

Register / Request access

Transforming how health and social care work together

Join our online community of staff working across health and social care



Learn more

[Support](#)



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

www.future.nhs.uk

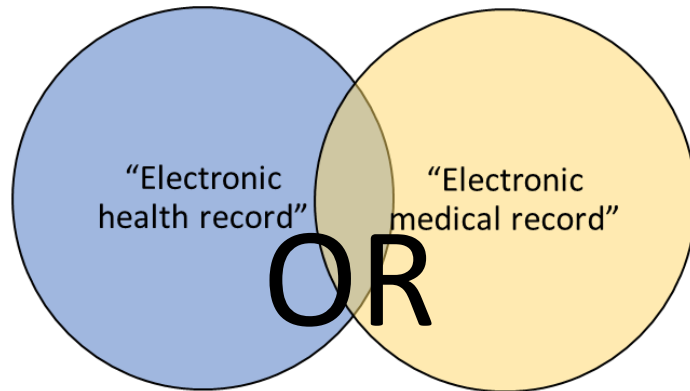
How to search Literature

Standardised term:

- Single word (electronic) (health) (record)
- Multiple word (single term) ("electronic health record")
- Multiple word (different term) ("electronic health record") ("implementation")

Boolean operator:

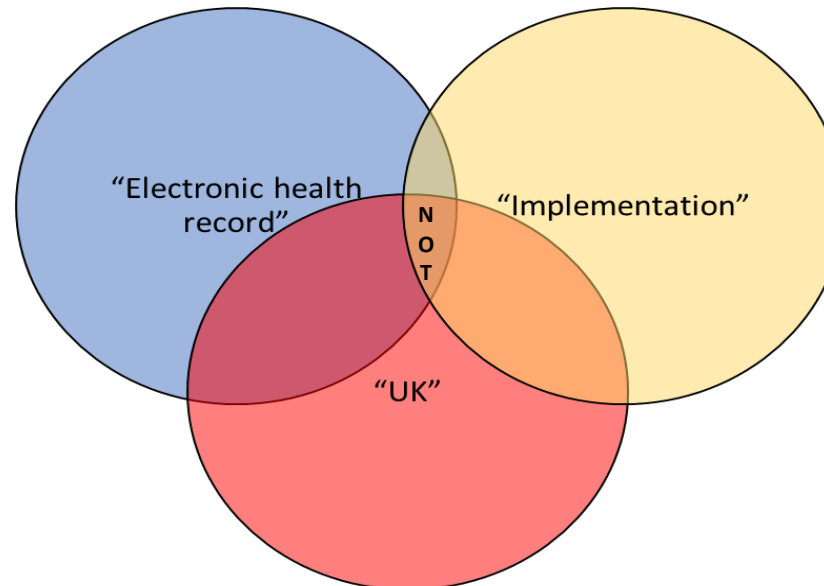
- AND
- OR
- NOT



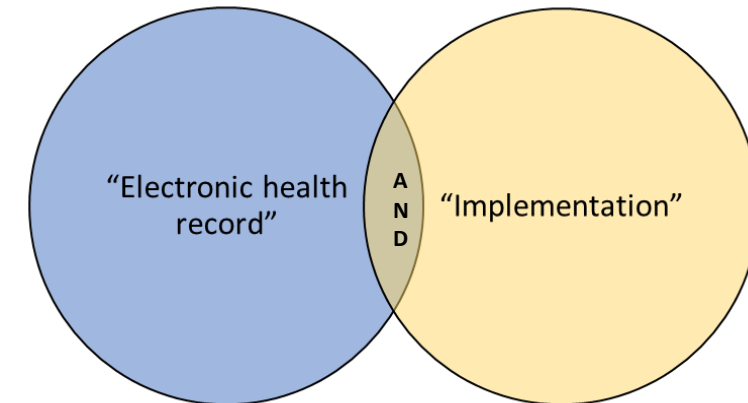
"electronic health record" OR "electronic medical record"

Topic/title:

Successful implementation of electronic health record in Europe



"electronic health record" AND "Implementation" NOT "UK"



"electronic health record" AND "Implementation"

What to look for in Standard Literature?



① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Literature Search & Management

Literature extraction

What to look for in a Standard Literature?

- Title (subtitle)
- Author(s) affiliation
- Date, Edition
- Abstract
- Preface, Introduction
- Context
- Index
- References
- Burb

Literature Search & Management

Literature Management

Reference Management Software:

- Mendeley
- RefWork
- Zotero
- Endnote

Online reference management:

- Cite this for me

Referencing Style

- APA
- Harvard
- Vancouver
- MHRA



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

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

200
1822 - 2022

Study About Student Life International Research Alumni

Referencing Handbooks

[UWTSD Home](#) - [Library and Learning Resources](#) - [Student Essentials](#) - Referencing Handbooks

Referencing Handbooks

Referencing correctly is an essential skill. When writing an assignment, you will be expected to acknowledge other people's work by referencing them in a recognized and consistent format.

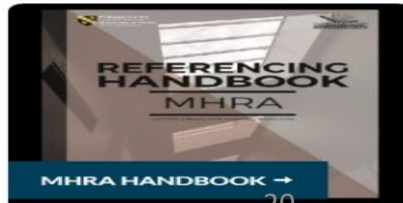
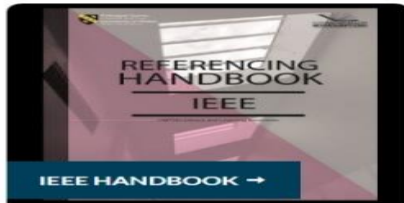
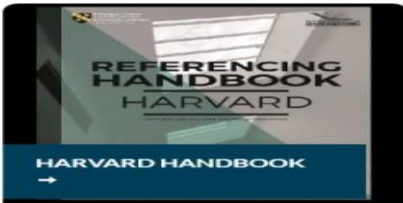
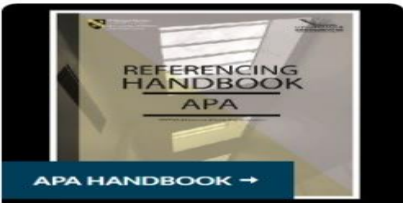


When it comes to referencing, there is plenty of conflicting or out-of-date advice and software available. We have created the Referencing Handbooks in collaboration with the Academic Office and academic staff across the University to give you consistent guidance and support.

The handbooks provide you with the basic principles of referencing and plagiarism, how to get support and what additional resources you can make use of for more specific examples of the referencing style you're using.

There are four recognised referencing styles at UWTSD and the one you use will depend on your area of study. To find out which one you should be using, look in your Programme Handbook, and download your copy by clicking on the button below.

If in doubt, contact your [Academic Liaison Librarian](#).



Mendeley guide: [Mendeley - A Manual for Librarians \(elsevier.com\)](#)

Mendeley tutorial: [Mendeley - YouTube](#)

Referencing Handbooks: [Referencing Handbooks | University of Wales Trinity Saint David \(uwttd.ac.uk\)](#)

Literature Search & Management



Articles

About 215,000 results (0.15 sec)

Any time

Since 2022

Since 2021

Since 2018

Custom range...

Sort by relevance

Sort by date

Any type

Review articles

☐ include patents

☒ include citations

Create alert

[HTML] Benefits and drawbacks of **electronic health record** systems

[N Menachemi](#), [TH Collum](#) - Risk management and healthcare ..., 2011 - ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

Abstract The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of 2009 that was signed into law as part of the "stimulus package" represents the largest US ...

☆ Save **Cite** Cited by 850 Related articles All 14 versions >>

[HTML] nih.gov

Full View

Electronic health record standards

D Kalra - Yearbook of medical informatics, 2006 - thieme-connect.com

This paper seeks to provide an overview of the initiatives that are proceeding internationally to develop standards for the exchange of **electronic health record** (EHR) information ...

☆ Save **Cite** Cited by 283 Related articles All 9 versions Web of Science: 82

[PDF] thieme-connect.com

[HTML] Extracting information from textual documents in the **electronic health record**: a review of recent research

[SM Meystre](#), [GK Savova](#)... - Yearbook of medical ..., 2008 - thieme-connect.com

Objectives We examine recent published research on the extraction of information from textual documents in the **Electronic Health Record** (EHR). Methods Literature review of the ...

☆ Save **Cite** Cited by 999 Related articles All 10 versions

[HTML] thieme-connect.com

Clinical benefits of **electronic health record** use: national findings

J King, V Patel, EW Jamoom... - Health services ..., 2014 - Wiley Online Library

Objective To assess whether physicians' reported **electronic health record** (EHR) use provides clinical benefits and whether benefits depend on using an EHR meeting ...

☆ Save **Cite** Cited by 309 Related articles All 7 versions Web of Science: 133

[PDF] wiley.com

Full View

Google Scholar "electronic health record" SIGN IN

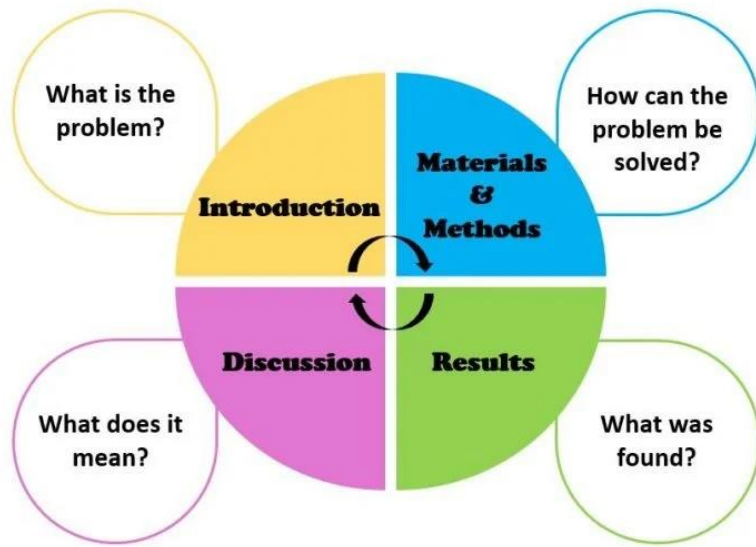
Articles About 215,000 results (0.15 sec) My profile My library

[HTML] ama-assn.org

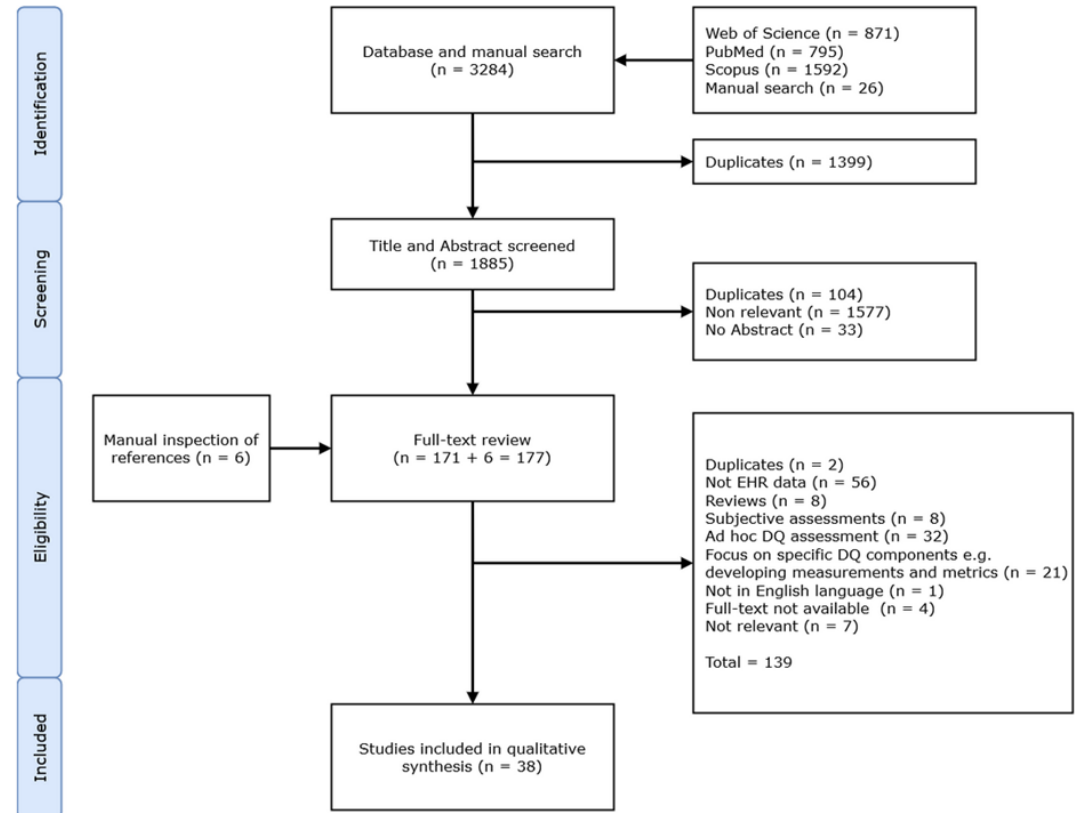
Four principles of good academic writing

- Clear thinking leads to clear writing.
- Learn by doing – write frequently, seek feedback.
- Write for the reader.
- Distinguish distinct types of academic writing.

Clear thinking leads to clear writing



IMRAD



PRISMA



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

Learn by doing

- Seek peer feedback on CW drafts – would your mother understand it?
- Freewriting – silence the internal editor (for a while!)
- Turn the editor back on: Grammarly, spell check, Gunning fog index.
- Learn what makes for good reading (exercise later): copy it!
- This is a journey, make each essay better than the last.

Write for the reader

- Make it flow logically from beginning to middle to end.
- Use Plain English, unless jargon is unavoidable.
- Short sentences (avoid cluttered clauses and subclauses).
- Tell them what you're going to tell them...
- Explain technical terms, uncommon words, acronyms and abbreviations.
- Make it flow logically from beginning to middle to end.

Distinguish distinct types of academic writing

- Make sure you know which style to adopt.
- Review: usually PRISMA, systematic / scoping / narrative...
- Argument: making the case, problem → options → proposal
- Scientific report: IMRAD
- CW essay: what structure is given/IMPLIED? How can you IMRAD it?

Writing tips (1)

- Use the *active* voice as much as possible.
 - “This essay reports an evaluation...”
 - “We selected this method so that...”
- It has been noted that the *passive* voice is wearisome and doth make for vagueness. (“It was decided”, “It was found”)
- Does your page look neat, structured, convincing? Does it flow?
 - Avoid Over Using Capital Letters! (Proper nouns only.)
 - Check font size and heading consistency.
- Avoid long direct quotations: paraphrase.

Writing tips (2)

- Do not use first person (“I think...”) unless you are specifically told that it is *reflective* writing.
- Read and apply:
 - *The Complete Plain Words*, Ernest Gowers
 - *Mind the Stop*, Gordon Carey
 - *Usage and Abusage*, Eric Partridge
- Brevity is the soul of wit
 - “I only made this letter longer because I had not the leisure to make it shorter”
(Blaise Pascal, 1656-7, translated)



Exercise (15-20 min)

Scan **one** of the two articles (do not attempt to read in detail).

1. What type of article is it? (Review / Argument / Scientific report / Other)
2. Does the abstract give you a clear overview / summary?
3. Does it *look* readable? Why?
4. Does the Conclusion follow logically from the argument / data?
5. What do you like about the writing style that you can emulate?
6. What do you dislike about the writing style that you can avoid?

Learning outcomes

1. Outline how to search the academic literature proficiently.
2. Describe how to cite literature correctly and avoid plagiarism.
3. Explain four key principles of good academic writing.
4. Identify three writing tips you will start to apply.

Useful Reading

[Academic Writing: Theory & Practice \(exlibrisgroup.com\)](https://exlibrisgroup.com)

Literature Search techniques

1. Kings College London: *LibGuides: Searching for Systematic Reviews*. [online]
Available at: <<https://libguides.kcl.ac.uk/systematicreview/advanced>> [Accessed 01 August 2022].
2. University College London: Introduction to Academic Writing: UCL Writing Lab. [online]
Available at: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/sites/students/files/academic_writing_study_pack.pdf> [Accessed 01 August 2022].
3. University of Manchester: [Academic Phrasebank | The University of Manchester](#)
Morley, J., 2016. *The academic phrasebank 2016*. Manchester: University of Manchester. (2015b enhanced edition)

Literature management and referencing

1. Mendeley guide: [Mendeley - A Manual for Librarians \(elsevier.com\)](#)
2. Mendeley tutorial: *Mendeley*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.youtube.com/c/mendeley>> [Accessed 24 August 2022].
3. Referencing Handbooks: [Referencing Handbooks | University of Wales Trinity Saint David \(uwtsd.ac.uk\)](#)

Academic Writing

1. Bak, N., 2003. *Guide to Academic Writing*. 1st ed. University of the Western Cape.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236229397_Guide_to_Academic_Writing
2. Fitzmaurice, M. and O'Farrell, C., n.d. *Developing your academic writing skills: a handbook*. Dublin: Trinity College Dublin.
[Developing your academic writing skills.pdf \(tcd.ie\)](#)

Useful Reading

Critical thinking reading and writing

1. THUY, T., 2015. *Critical Reading: A Guidebook for postgraduate students*. Hue, Vietnam: HUE UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING HOUSE.
[\(PDF\) Critical Reading: A Guidebook for Postgraduate Students \(researchgate.net\)](#)
2. Postigo, G., Hardy, J. and Foster, C., 2015. *With Good Reason: A Guide to Critical Thinking*. Bridgepoint Education, Inc.
[\(PDF\) With Good Reason: A Guide to Critical Thinking \(researchgate.net\)](#)
3. Bassham, G., Irwin, W., Nardone, H. and Wallace, J., 2011. *Critical Thinking A student's Introduction*. 4th ed. King's College London: McGraw-Hill.
[Critical Thinking: A Student's Introduction \(wordpress.com\)](#)
4. WALLACE, M. and WRAY, A., 2021. *CRITICAL READING AND WRITING FOR POSTGRADUATES*. [S.I.]: SAGE PUBLICATIONS.
[Critical Reading and Writing for Postgraduates - Mike Wallace, Alison Wray - Google Books](#)

Constructing argument:

1. Rao, V., Chanock, K. and Krishan, L., 2007. *A visual guide to essay writing*. Broadway, N.S.W.: Association for Academic Language and Learning.
[A Visual Guide to Essay Writing: How to Develop and Communicate Academic ... - Valli Rao - Google Books](#)

Avoiding Plagiarism:

1. PARK, C., 2003. In Other (People's) Words: Plagiarism by university students--literature and lessons. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 28(5), pp.471-488.
[In Other \(People's\) Words: Plagiarism by university students--literature and lessons \(tandfonline.com\)](#)
2. Helgesson, G. and Eriksson, S., 2014. Plagiarism in research. *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*, 18(1), pp.91-101.
[Plagiarism in research | SpringerLink](#)
3. Larkham, P. and Manns, S., 2002. Plagiarism and its Treatment in Higher Education. *Journal of Further and Higher Education*, 26(4), pp.339-349.
[Plagiarism and its Treatment in Higher Education \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

Audience Q&A Session



① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.