



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

Understanding Academic Misconduct

Session 4:

Fabrication of sources, references and data

Trawsnewid Addysg, Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education, Transforming Lives

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What are we learning?

By the end of the short session you will:

- Recognise fabricated references, sources and data;
- Distinguish a genuine scholarly source from an invented or unverifiable citation;
- Locate evidence using UWTSD resources;
- Verify a reference before including it.

What does UWTSD's Academic Misconduct Policy say?

The UWTSD Academic Misconduct Policy lists Falsifying data, evidence or experimental results as a form of academic misconduct.

Data

Information or numbers that have been collected.

- For example - Stating 200 people completed a questionnaire when only 38 did.

Evidence

Information used to support what you are saying.

- For example - Claiming an NHS webpage supports your statement when it does not.

Experimental results

What was found when a test, study or experiment was carried out.

- For example - Changing results because they do not show what you expected.

Falsifying references

Inventing references that do not actually existing is a fabrication.

Fabrication includes:

- making up a reference;
- inventing a source;
- inventing questionnaire responses;
- making up results;
- claiming you collected data that you did not collect.

Activity: Find it before you cite it

Genuine and Accurate

Fabricated and invented

Work in pairs or small groups to decide if the references used in the examples are genuine and authentic or fabricated.

Debrief: Find it before you cite it

Example	Can I FIND it?	Do the DETAILS match?	Does it SUPPORT the claim?	Decision
1 NICE	Yes or No?	Yes or No?	Yes or No?	Use / Correct / Reject
2 NHS				Use / Correct / Reject
3 Holt-Lunstad et al				Use / Correct / Reject
4 Williams and Patel				Use / Correct / Reject



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If you haven't read it, don't pretend you have.

If the data doesn't exist, don't invent it

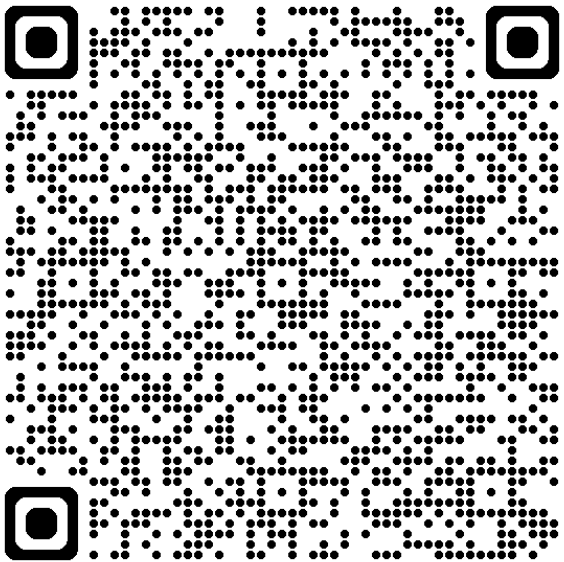


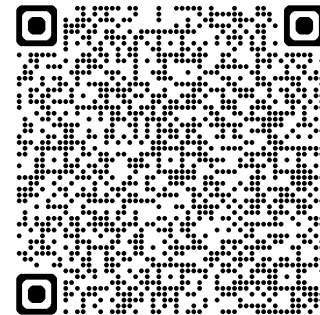
Using Data

Secondary data is information that has already been collected by someone else. You might use statistics from the ONS, NHS or The King's Fund in your assignment. You must report the data accurately

Use the source of data below to decide if the following statements are accurate or false.

[Profile of the older population living in England and Wales in 2021 and changes since 2011 - Office for National Statistics](#)





Accurate or False

In 2021, 4.3 million people aged 65 and over were living alone in England and Wales.

Falsification

ONS found that 72% of people aged 65 and over were socially isolated in 2021.

Falsification

In 2021, 3.3 million people aged 65 and over were living alone in England and Wales.

Accurate

Further learning at UWTSD

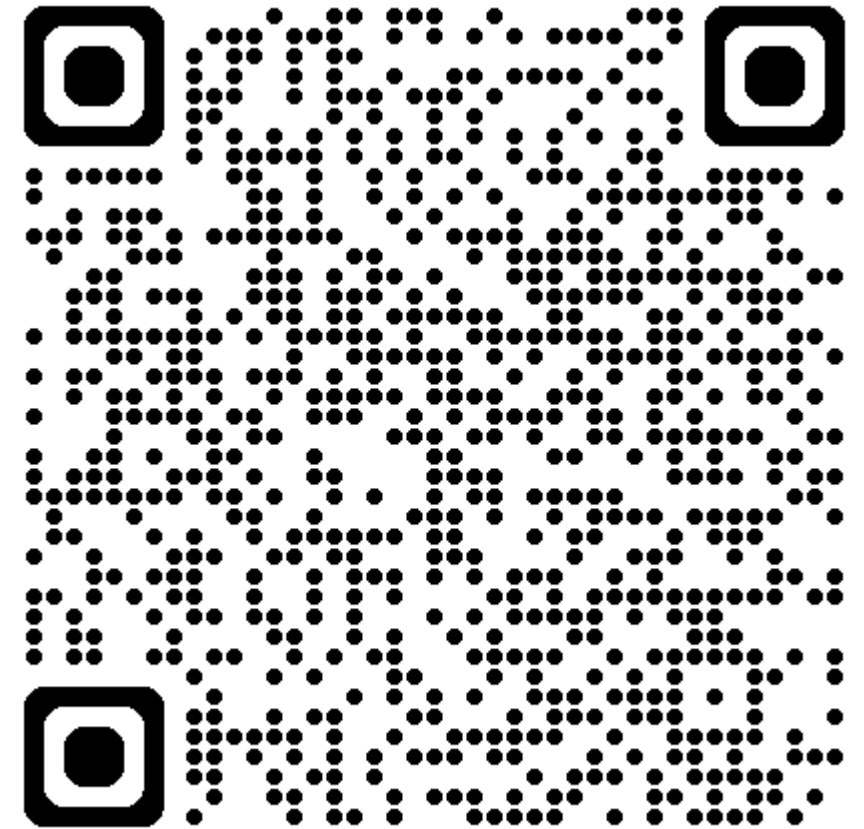


[Digital Services](#) » [Digital Learning & Library Services](#) » [Academic and InfoSkills](#) » [Finding and Using Information](#)



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.





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References

Office for National Statistics (2023) *Profile of the older population living in England and Wales in 2021 and changes since 2011*. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/ageing/articles/profileoftheolderpopulationlivinginenglandandwalesin2021andchangessince2011/2023-04-03> (Accessed: 19 September 2026).

University of Wales Trinity Saint David (n.d.) *Procedures for academic appeals, complaints and other student cases*. Available at: <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/procedures-academic-appeals-complaints-and-other-student-cases> (Accessed: 19 September 2026)

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