



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

# **Independent Project (BA)**

## **ACCA6020**

**BA Computer Games Design**  
**BA Animation & VFX**

**PART B: GENERAL ADVICE**



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## FOUR STEPS FOR GOOD RESEARCH





## FOUR STEPS FOR GOOD RESEARCH

UWTSD's e-learning Hub states that there **are four steps to conducting good research.**

This can be utilised by students to **help make your initial investigation easier** and your work **more informed by literature and facts.**



# FOUR STEPS FOR GOOD RESEARCH

These **four steps** are as follows:

**1) Define Your Objective**

**2) Evaluate as you Collate**

**3) Analyse Your Findings**

**4) Form Your Conclusion**



## FOUR STEPS FOR GOOD RESEARCH

### 1) Define Your Objective

Be clear about **what you are trying to achieve** and keep that in mind as you start digging.

Setting a clear research objective will keep you focussed as you start collating information. This is often referred to as your **hypothesis**.



## FOUR STEPS FOR GOOD RESEARCH

### 1) Define Your Objective

- Are you looking for alternative solutions?
- Are you looking for evidence to support a position?
- Are you building a framework of reference?
- Do you need reassurance about a worrisome point?
- What questions do you have that you can't answer yet?



## FOUR STEPS FOR GOOD RESEARCH

### 2) Evaluate as you collate

You want to get a **broad perspective** on your objective but there's a lot of information out there and the **reliability and relevance of it may be questionable**.

It is important to **keep refining your search terms** to get closer to what you're looking for and constantly **assess the relevance to your objective**.



## FOUR STEPS FOR GOOD RESEARCH

### 2) Evaluate as you collate

When you find something that surprises you or something that satisfies your presuppositions, **challenge it** and look for corroborating evidence **from a different source**.

Wikipedia, for example, is often a useful starting point but **you would lose credibility to quote it as your source** in any work environment.



## FOUR STEPS FOR GOOD RESEARCH

### 3) Analyse your findings

Once you've collated your most **reliable, relevant information** you need to join the dots: **look for the patterns** in what you've found.

- What repeatedly stands out?
- What can you interpret from the data?
- How does any of it help your research objective?



## FOUR STEPS FOR GOOD RESEARCH

### 4) Form Your Conclusion

- With your objective clear in your mind, **summarise your findings, formulate your new ideas, make your recommendations or present your solution.**
- Providing **references and source material** for your information (in a references and bibliography section) are a significant part of this process so make sure you **document your findings** and **keep the references for all the information you find**. This needs to be **presented as part of your academic documentation** for the Independent Project.



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# USER PARTICIPATION





## USER PARTICIPATION

As part of your research, you may need to **gather data from test users or participants.**

This is often conducted through **questionnaires, surveys or interviews.**



## USER PARTICIPATION

If you need to involve others in your project, please remember:

- There may be **ethical considerations** to factor in, especially if you are testing how people react to stimuli or experiences – ask your supervision tutor for advice
- The University has documentation and a **Code of Ethics** that can be consulted. You may also need to draft consent documentation for research participants and have this approved by the institution



## USER PARTICIPATION

If you need to involve others in your project, please remember:

- Sample groups **need to be established EARLY** – do not ask people to answer a questionnaire at short notice. Most people will not respond in a timely fashion
- Small sample groups often **do not provide valuable or useful data**. Asking 2 people for feedback is far less academically robust than 20, or 30 and indicates you do not understand the research process required for academic studies. The appropriate size of sample group **depends on the scope and theme of your research** – talk to your supervisor for advice



## USER PARTICIPATION

If you need to involve others in your project, please remember:

- Questionnaires, interviews, surveys, etc. need to be **structured and executed in a particular fashion**. This is a research topic of its own and you **need to conduct research on this as well** as your subject matter!
- All of the above also need to be **tested and refined** BEFORE conducting research – there is plenty of information on research interviews, questionnaire development and conducting surveys online and in the library. Make use of this to improve your understanding and the quality / validity of your work



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## GENERAL ADVICE





## GENERAL ADVICE

- **Meet with your Supervision tutor regularly**, even if you have no new work to show – communication is important!
- Write **Introductions and conclusions after the main body chapters** – the document will likely exist as **separate chunks of related information** for a while. Editing can take place around February/March and the final draft can be produced around March/April (provided you've kept up to date with your work!)



## GENERAL ADVICE

- Use Version Control (v0.1, v0.2, v0.3 etc) when saving work – this allows you to **‘roll back’ to earlier versions** if you accidentally lose or overwrite information
- **Create regular backups regularly** throughout the term (e.g. 1 per week / per major update or change)



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**REMEMBER:**

**SAVE YOUR WORK  
AND SAVE IT OFTEN!**

If your work isn't backed up in at least **three separate physical / digital locations** it is not properly backed up at all!



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