Thinking about resources

http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/your-study/library-and-it-support
Library resources

The Library provides a range resources to support your research and study including:

- Books
- Academic journals
- Conference proceedings
- Newspapers
- Magazines (popular or trade journals)
Using the right information source

This guide will help you think about:

• The differences between resources

• How you can use them in your academic work

• What they are good for

• What they are not so good for
Books are......

A written or printed work of fiction or fact.

Could be a one-off publication or occasionally updated.
Books provide.....

• An overview of a subject and background information
• Quality (edited) information
• Information written by experts

But.....

• Information can be out-of-date
• May not be specific or focused enough
Newspapers are.....

A regular publication containing current news and events, informative articles, diverse features and advertising.
Newspapers provide.....

• Daily news and up-to-date information
• Information which is edited for accuracy
• Current issues are readily available
• Useful adverts for jobs, events, new products etc

But.....

• Information can be bias eg. political
• Articles can be sensationalist
• Older issues can be hard to find
Academic Journals are.....

A regular publication containing articles on a particular academic subject.

Presents new research.

Critically reviewed by experts.
Academic Journals provide.....

• Up-to-date information
• Information which is focussed
• Written by experts to a high academic standard
• Peer-reviewed articles

But.....

• Information can be very specific
• May be difficult to understand
• Expensive
Conference proceedings are.....

A collection of academic papers distributed after a conference, containing the contributions made by researchers, academics etc.
Conference proceedings provide.....

• Up-to-date information
• Focussed and detailed papers/articles
• Latest ideas and research on a subject
• Stringent selection process, so quality assured

But.....

• Information may be hard to understand
• Can be difficult to locate or obtain
Magazines are.....

A regular publication aimed at a profession, business or interest.

May include articles, news, jobs, new products, events, advertising etc.
Magazines provide.....

• The latest news
• Concise information
• Useful adverts for jobs, events, new products etc

But.....

• Articles may lack detail
• Information can be bias e.g. adverts/sponsorship
• Old issues may be hard to find
Have a look at our Library Subject Guides to find out more about the resources we offer:

http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/computing
Library Subject Guides.....

• Provide information on subject specific resources
• Available for all subjects taught at Middlesex University
• Course specific and user guides also available
• Access: MyUniHub > MyStudy > MyLibrary
• http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk
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