Information skills for researchers

https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/study/library
This guide will help you:

- Discover resources available
- Develop an effective search strategy
- Use resources to find the information you need
- Evaluate information for quality and relevance
- Manage your references
Find out what is available

Ask us a question or make an appointment to see your librarian.

Look at our Library Subject Guides to find out what resources are available in your subject area.

http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk
Before you start searching....

Think about what information you require.

Consider the following points, so that you can find as much relevant information as possible:

• What is the main topic?
• What alternative words can be used to describe it?
• Be more specific.
• Think about the broader subject area.

See next slide for an example
For example:

- **Keywords**
  
  *Old people, computer*

- **Alternative keywords**
  
  *Old people-* OAPs, old aged pensioners, elderly, retired people, Grandparents, senior citizens etc

  *Computer-* computers, IT, ICT, laptop, technology

- **More specific keywords**
  
  *Silver Surfers, broadband, searching, Internet, website, user interface*

- **Related subjects**
  
  *Digital Britain, hobbies, retirement, digital literacy*

Use your keywords (search terms) to search for information using our resources.
Accessing library resources (students)

MyUniHub > MyStudy > MyLibrary

Logging on to MyUniHub authenticates you as one of our students. This means that when you start searching you should have seamless access to full-text resources where available.

If you are a member of staff, see next slide for access information........
Logging on to MyUniHub authenticates you as one of our members of staff. This means that when you start searching you should have seamless access to full-text resources where available.
Searching for information

**Library Search:** Searches our book titles, journal articles, conference proceedings etc. Use if you want to search for information on a subject. Library Search does not cover all of our databases, so not good for a comprehensive literature review on its own.

**Databases:** Use to search subject specific collections of journals. Most of our databases are covered by Library Search. Many databases offer facility to save searches and set up RSS alerts. Essential for a comprehensive literature review.

**Middlesex University Research Repository:** Online open access archive of published research and other scholarly content produced by Middlesex University staff and researchers, so you can see what your tutor has written.
Streamlining your search

The following search tips can all be used when searching the Internet to make your search results more specific. The first two can also be used with Library Search and some of our journal databases:

“human resource management” (phrase search)
design* (Broaden search)

project AND management (narrow search)
USA OR America (broaden search)
Cork NOT Ireland (exclude words)
-Amazon (exclude words)
+Ideo or “IDEO” (exact match)
Define: “oil fracking” (definition)
Other useful resources
MyLibrary > Databases

Box of Broadcasts (BoB): enables staff and students to choose and record any broadcast programme from 60+ TV and radio channels from the last 30 days plus access to BBC TV and radio Archive going back to 2007. [http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/BoB](http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/BoB) NB. Only available to view in the UK.

Britannica Online: 100,000 professionally edited and researched articles on just about every subject. Includes thesaurus & dictionary of quotations, links to 800,000 full-text journal and magazine articles plus full text E-books and primary sources etc.

British Standards Online: Database of more than 50,000 British and adopted European and international standards. Middlesex University has full text access to a Custom Collection of 150 of these standards. [http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/computing/Standards](http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/computing/Standards)

UK Data Service: comprehensive resource funded by the ESRC which provides a unified point of access to the extensive range of high quality economic and social data, including valuable census data.
Financial and Company information

Find out about companies, market sectors, industry and country profiles, and consumer trends etc (MyLibrary > Databases) including:

- Business Source Complete
- Passport
- Mintel
- IBIS World
- COBRA
- WARC

Find out more: http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/business/industry

Financial data:

- Bloomberg
- Datastream

Find out more: http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/business/financial
Journal Impact Factors

• Find these on Journal Citation reports

• Available from Web of Science (MyLibrary > Databases)

• Quantifiable statistical information based on citation data

• Determine a publication’s impact and influence in the global research community

• More information http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/research/wos
It’s not in the Library!

- Inter Library Loans MyLibrary > Interlibrary Loans
  Request books, journal articles and other papers from the British Library.

- Sconul Access https://www.sconul.ac.uk/sconul-access
  Visit and borrow material from academic libraries in the UK and Ireland.

- Other libraries https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/study/library/library-services/visiting-other-libraries
  More information about using other libraries.
But is it any good?

"The problem with quotes on the Internet is that it is hard to verify their authenticity"

- Abraham Lincoln

Even if you have used library resources to find information, it is important to evaluate what you have found for quality and relevance.
Evaluating the information you find

• Authority: Who is the author, what is their knowledge base, how have they carried out their research?

• Relevance: Is it what you need, will it answer your question, is it at the right level?

• Intent: Why has the information been written e.g. financial gain, propaganda, academic reasons etc?

• Objectivity: Is the information balanced, are opposing views represented?

• Currency: How old is the information, when was it last updated and by whom?
Data Collection & Analysis

Available from our Download Server:
https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/study/it/software

• Minitab: statistical analysis
• Nvivo: qualitative data analysis
• Oxmetrics: econometrics software
• SPSS: statistical analysis
Sharing your research

Middlesex University Research Repository http://eprints.mdx.ac.uk/

The Middlesex University Research Repository is an online "open access" archive of published research and other scholarly content produced by Middlesex University staff and researchers. Material in the archive is visible from anywhere on the internet without the need to log in. It provides a deposit service for academic staff and researchers, supported by the Repository Team within Library and Student Support.
Referencing and Plagiarism
My Library > My Subject Library Guides > Referencing and Plagiarism

Find out how to reference correctly using *Cite them Right Online* which can be accessed from our *Referencing and Plagiarism* guide.

http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/plagiarismreferencing
Managing your references

• Use bibliographic management software to collect, store and organise your references
• RefWorks is available from the Library
• MyLibrary > Databases > R > RefWorks (New)
• More information and help:
  
http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/plagiarismreferencing/NewRW
Guide for researchers
MyLibrary > My Subject Library Guides > Research

http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/res
Need further help?

Contact your Librarian:
http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/

Make an appointment: