VET 0100: The Library and Information
Today we will cover... Finding information for your assignments

• Why we need information and when
• Types of information
• Information sources
• Evaluating information
When & why do we need Information?
What is information?

For each task you need a different type of information, and to find the most useful and relevant information you have to understand:

• what information is
• why you need the information
• what are the different types of information available
• where to look for information
What is evidence?

• **Evidence** is anything that you see, experience, read, or are told that causes you to believe that something is true or has really happened.

• You will need to provide **evidence** to support any arguments made in your assignments.
You need information! Who ya gonna call?
Library Resources

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

• Books
• Journals
• Trade Journals or Magazines
• Newspapers
• Websites
Thinking about resources
Books

**What are they:**
A printed or electronic work of fiction or fact.

**Good for:**
Clear overview.

**Not so good for:**
Up to date information.
Journals

What are they:
A regular publication containing substantial articles on a particular academic subject area.
 Presents latest ideas, developments, news and research.

Good for:
Latest research, critically reviewed

Not so good for:
Broad overview of a subject.
Trade Journals or Magazines

What are they:
A regular publication containing news, jobs, products, events and advertising.
Aimed at a profession, business sector.

Good for:
Focussed up-to-date information.

Not so good for:
Detailed and objective reports.
Newspapers

What are they:
A regular publication containing news about current events, plus informative articles, diverse features and advertising.
May be electronic.

Good for:
Daily information.

Not so good for:
Balanced and well researched information.
Websites

What are they:
An online resource which can be created by anyone on any topic.
Provides access to a wide range of information sources.

Good for:
Very up to date information

Not so good for:
Accurate and reliable information.
Keywords – what are they?

**Keywords** are words or phrases that describe content you are searching for.
Keywords – Game

• How can you ensure you are finding what you need? Make sure you search with the right keywords...

Keywords Game.......
Finding resources
myUniHub > My Study > My Library

Access all sorts of online resources here!

Login to MyUniHub
What’s in ‘My Library’

• Reading lists for each of your modules

• Search for information using Library Search

• My Subject – library guides resources and help for your subject
Library Search

Use Library Search to find and access quality academic resources.
It replaces Summon and the Library Catalogue.

Full text Access

To ensure full text access to the Library’s online subscriptions, before you search:
- Log-in to myUniHub > My Study > My Library
- Click on Library Search

Sign-in

Use your University email address:
E.g. Student: JK123@live.mdx.ac.uk
Staff: j.bloggs@mdx.ac.uk
Use your normal University IT password

Sign-in to:
- Check your Library Account
- Request items
- Create lists
- Save searches and create alerts

Automatic Renewals

VET2204
Canine obesity: is there a difference between veterinarian and owner perception?


When you are looking for information about anything where do you go first?
Google...grumpy cat says no.....
Good Google....

Google Scholar provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many disciplines and sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites.
Google Scholar - [https://scholar.google.com/](https://scholar.google.com/)
Search for and select Middlesex University
Boolean Operators

• **AND** = Less: You are combining search terms NARROWER

• **OR** = MORE: You are asking for either of the search terms WIDER

• *** = Truncation** – You enter the beginning of a key word e.g. Vet* will find all search terms beginning with these letters

• “ ” = Phrase searching – You want the words to be next to each other in your search e.g. “animal behaviour”
AND

OR

NOT

Both terms

Either term

Just one term
A few search tips

- Keep it simple!
- Experiment with different words and concepts, remember different spellings and terminology e.g. US v UK
- Truncating to broaden your search Vet* = all words beginning with VET
- Search for phrases “vet nursing”
- If you have too many items think about using limits e.g. date? Type of resource? Subject area?, Language
- Try the advanced search options most databases have them
- Change databases – you won’t find everything in one resource
Have a go!

• Put in some assignment keywords into Library Search or Google Scholar and see what results you get
• Try using phrase searching and truncation
• Look at the references
• Email or save your results
Evaluating resources

• So you’ve found some information!!
• But is it any good......
Evaluate Your Sources

- Currency
- Authority
- Relevancy
- Purpose/Point of View
Currency

• When was the information published or posted?
• Has the information been revised or updated?
• Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?
Accuracy/Authority

• Is the information supported by evidence (e.g. references, research data)?
• Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
• Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
• Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
• What are the author's credentials or organisational affiliations?
• Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
• Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?
• Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net
Relevancy

• Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
• Who is the intended audience?
• Is the information at an appropriate academic level?
• Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?
• Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?
Purpose

• What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?
• Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
• Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?
• Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
• Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?
Evaluation game

• Go to http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/Brexit
• In groups decide
• Which are relevant
• Which are no use
• Which has most academic authority
• Which items might be biased
• Which item is most current
Remember to reference
Library Guide: http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/vetnursing
Any questions?
THE ENTIRE AUDIENCE SILENTLY STARES AT YOU.
YOUR LECTURE HAS EITHER BLOWN THEIR MINDS
OR HORRIFIED THEM BEYOND WORDS.