PSY0010: Research and the Library
Today we will cover... Finding information for your assignments

• Types of information
• Library Search
• Google Scholar
• Evaluating information
Presentation Topics

• Cognitive Psychology
  • ‘Memory & Music’ OR ‘Attention’

• Learning
  • ‘Media & Violence’ OR ‘Observational Learning’

• Developmental Psychology
  • ‘Attachment’ OR ‘Theory of Mind’
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
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!
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

- Try a search for *Psychology*
- What are the useful tools?
- Now try *media violence*
- How many results?
- Do they look useful?
- Try *media psychology*
- Refining your results
  - Date
  - Type
  - Peer review
  - subject

- Searches *journals, books* and more
- Good starting point for your research
- Covers ALL subjects taught at MDX

![Library Search Interface](image)
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

• 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
When you are looking for information about anything where do you go first?
Google...grumpy cat says no.....
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
Google Scholar
Evaluate Your Sources

C

• Currency

A

• Authority

R

• Relevancy

P

• 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?
• Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors?
• 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

• Look at these 4 pieces of information on self esteem
• 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
Essay writing companies

• Unethical business
• False claims
• High charges/no standards
• Get out clauses
• Hard sell
• University rules
Buying coursework is cheating
It’s against University Regulations:

https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/study/academic-integrity

There are serious consequences:

• Unfair advantage
• Poor quality work
• Open to blackmail
• Suspension
• Degree cancelled
• Career prospects
What should I do?

• Report it
• Stop and think
• Get help

https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/support/unihelp

https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/study/writing-numeracy/drop-ins
http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/psych
Any questions?
Need help?

- Librarians in the Study Hub (1st floor) Monday – Friday, 9-5
- Ask a Librarian [https://unihelp.mdx.ac.uk/askalibrarian](https://unihelp.mdx.ac.uk/askalibrarian)
- Library guide for Psychology [http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/psych](http://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/psych)
- Psychology librarian: Susannah Parry [s.parry@mdx.sc.uk](mailto:s.parry@mdx.sc.uk)