

Research plan

1. What information do I need?

Title/topic:

What are the concepts/ ideas/ themes that make up my topic?

Think of synonyms, alternative spellings and variant forms of words.

Consider narrow, specific and broad words related to the concept.

First Concept:

Second Concept:

Third Concept:

Write down relevant date limits, language limits, geographic region, format of information eg: video, web page

2. Where should I look for information?

Resource brainstorming

Write down known key authors, organisations, recommended reading, web sites, experts, including your Faculty Liaison Librarian, which will be useful to consult when researching your topic.

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3. Selecting and using sources of information

Library Catalogue

Tips	Type of search
Enter author surname first: Smith, F or organisation name	(select appropriate types below) Write down words to use below <input type="checkbox"/> Author
Leave out "A", "An" or "The" at the start of a title. Type words in exact order.	<input type="checkbox"/> Title
Use * as the 'truncation symbol' to search for alternate word endings Austral* for Australia, Australian etc Two words together are searched as a phrase eg New Zealand. Use and/or to combine concepts.	<input type="checkbox"/> Keyword
Search a known title or do some test searches to find appropriate subject headings.	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject

Please consider	Catalogue search: notes
<p><i>Too little information?</i> You may need to think broadly about your topic when searching the catalogue.</p> <p><i>Too much information?</i> It is useful to look at the table of contents and indexes of books to see if they contain the specific information you require.</p> <p><i>Looking for journal articles?</i> You need to search a subject database for journal article. The catalogue indicates if the Library holds a journal.</p>	

Databases

Tips
<p>Use the help button on each database to find out about its unique features and the best way to construct your search.</p> <p>Keyword searching: Uses search strings to link words eg: naturalism AND theatre AND (20th Century or Post War or Fifties OR Sixties) - use synonyms to describe each concept, link with the word OR eg (naturalism OR realism) - 'nest' each concept in parentheses. eg: (20th Century or Post War or Fifties OR Sixties) - use the appropriate truncation symbol for the specific database eg: \$, * , ? eg: theat\$ - search each concept separately if the database allows you to combine sets of results - if the database does not allow you to combine sets of results, link the search string for each concept with the word AND</p> <p>Subject searching Uses the specific index or thesaurus terms particular to the database eg: naturalism or "kitchen sink drama" Use the help information for instructions on subject searching as each database varies A subject heading will draw together all articles on a subject avoiding the use of large numbers of synonyms. Use a keyword search to find an excellent article on your topic then analyse the subject headings associated with it.</p>

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Name of database	Type of search
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> Search string using keywords <input type="checkbox"/> Subject headings <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of searches eg: author, journal title.
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> Search string using keywords <input type="checkbox"/> Subject headings <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of searches eg: author, journal title.
3.	<input type="checkbox"/> Search string using keywords <input type="checkbox"/> Subject headings <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of searches eg: author, journal title.
4.	<input type="checkbox"/> Search string using keywords <input type="checkbox"/> Subject headings <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of searches eg: author, journal title.
5.	<input type="checkbox"/> Search string using keywords <input type="checkbox"/> Subject headings <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of searches eg: author, journal title.

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Please consider		Database searches: notes	
<p><i>Too little information?</i> Try different words. Think about different ways to approach the topic.</p> <p><i>Too much information?</i> Try limiting by language, date or other options offered by the database. Try adding more words to the search.</p>			
Internet			
<p>Tips Use the help button on each search tool to find out about its unique features and the best way to construct your search. Some search tools allow the use of AND/OR functions, nesting and truncation. Use advanced search functions where available to make your search more specific Use search engines for finding specific information using uncommon words or if you wish to search a large number of websites Use subject directories for finding reviewed sites or if you want to browse through resources by category Use information gateways if you want information compiled by subject specialists Use several search tools for wider coverage</p>			
Name of search tool		Type of search	
<p>1. Name:</p> <p>Type of search tool: <input type="checkbox"/> search engine <input type="checkbox"/> subject directory <input type="checkbox"/> information gateway</p>		<p>Search string</p>	
<p>2. Name:</p> <p>Type of search tool: <input type="checkbox"/> search engine <input type="checkbox"/> subject directory <input type="checkbox"/> information gateway</p>		<p>Search string</p>	
<p>3. Name:</p> <p>Type of search tool: <input type="checkbox"/> search engine <input type="checkbox"/> subject directory <input type="checkbox"/> information gateway</p>		<p>Search string</p>	
Please consider		Internet search: notes	
<p><i>Too little information?</i> Try another type of search tool. Try different words. Think about different ways to approach the topic.</p> <p><i>Too much information?</i> Try limiting by language, date or other options offered by the search tool. Try adding more words to the search. Try using more specific words</p>			
Experts			
<p>Use experts as additional sources of information.</p> <p>Prepare by thoroughly researching the topic beforehand.</p>		<p><i>List people who are expert in this area and their contact details</i></p>	
Need Help?			
<p>Check http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/contacts/subjectcontacts.html for the name of your Faculty Liaison Librarian</p>			