OCC101

Library skills

2016
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This class will cover...

- Navigate the Library homepage
- Find a book
- Referencing with APA 6th
- Database searching strategy
- This presentation can be found on the Home tab of this guide

http://libguides.usc.edu.au/OT
Find your OT Library Guide

• Search for Library on the USC website

• Select Library
USC website – search for Library

Search library

library

Rise, and shine.

Library forms

What would you like to do?
Select Library Guides

![Library Guide Menu]

- **Opening hours**: Monday to Friday: 8.30am-5pm, Saturday: 10am-2pm, Sunday: closed, Public holidays: closed

- **Search**
  - Databases
  - Journal titles
  - Library guides

- **Find**
  - Company information
  - Standards and codes
  - Statistics
  - Law resources

- **Connect**
  - Ask a Librarian
  - USC Library
  - @LibraryUSC

We acknowledge the traditional custodians on whose land we walk, work and live and pay our respects to elders both past and present.
Lots of useful stuff behind each tab!

Getting Started

Before you begin searching for information, make sure you understand your topic and what you don't know.

1. Write down what you already know about the topic and what you need to find out.
2. Find dictionaries, encyclopaedias for an overview of your topic.
3. Find text books to broaden your knowledge of your topic and to identify keywords.
4. Find academic journal articles for detailed arguments about specific points.

Write down what you know and need to know

Find dictionaries and encyclopaedias

Find textbooks

Find academic journal articles

- Gives you a starting point for your research
- Provide an overview of the topic
- Broaden your knowledge of the topic
- Detailed arguments on specific points

Related Guides:
- Analyse your topic
- Build an effective search strategy
- Find scholarly journal articles

Qualitative vs Quantitative studies

A quick and amusing 8 minute intro to the two major types of research

Qualitative vs. Quantitative

Purpose

Qualitative
- Explore the meaning of people...

Quantitative
- To examine the relationship between variables

These slides will be here
What’s my topic?

Don’t just type in a sentence like “paediatric occupational therapy”

• Understand your topic before you start! (Read about it in books if you have to)
• Analyse your topic to generate search terms (keywords and phrases)
• Think of possible alternative words/phrases for the same concepts
• Use these for searching
General search strategy

All databases use the same syntax (search logic)...

**AND** Combines different concepts
e.g. Hand and injury

**OR** Adds similar concepts e.g. cat or feline

**NOT** Excludes concepts
e.g. bones not ulna
Find books on a topic

Find a book on “paediatric occupational therapy”. Select the DISCOVER Advanced search from the Library homepage and choose the Catalogue tab to exclude journal articles.

Note: In DISCOVER, paediatric and pediatric finds the same results

Don’t do this...

Do this!

Note: Change in search strategy = big change in number of hits!
Advanced Search Techniques

Truncation (*) and Wildcard (?)
Useful for word variant searching
(Symbols may vary between resources)
E.g. wom?n; fluid* (for fluid, fluids, fluidics..)

*Pediatric* finds paediatric and pediatric and plurals as well in DISCOVER

(For Google products, use ~ e.g. ~pediatric)
(check out the help / search tips on the database you are using)
Think of alternative words, phrases, synonyms etc…. to capture all important aspects of your topic

Examples:

- Teenagers, teens, adolescents, adolescent, adolescence, youth, young adults
- Rural, regional, remote, country, outback
- Laughter, humour, humor, comedy, comic
You can narrow the results with the “facets” on the left.

Click View Online to read the ebook.
Click Find to see availability and location of a print book.

Two different books by the same author.

This will show an eBook version and a print version is available.
Getting an APA6th reference for items in DISCOVER – will need some correction! Always compare with the Academic Skills APA Quick Guide.

Ebooks provide an incomplete reference!!

Close...but not perfect!
Finding journal articles are similar to books – but use the **Journal articles** tab instead.

Typing in a whole sentence gives a big fuzzy result set – hard to sort.

As for books, a more thoughtful search strategy gives a more relevant result set. You can refine the set more with the facets as well.
A more flexible journal search can be done in a database like Scopus.
A search for “The role of occupational therapy in Special Schools”

After you analyse the topic you could end up with a search like this
My search gives 70 articles which I can now narrow down in various ways using the left facets.
Limit with facets

Final 26 is not too many to evaluate. First scan the titles, then look at the abstracts to choose which ones to get by clicking Link to Full Text
Email the results
Evaluation

Always evaluate every article you want to use— is it really reliable?

- Who wrote it? (believable authors?)
- Date (not outdated?)
- Subject coverage (relevant?)
- Bias (impartial?)
- Format (academic layout, clear methods etc.)
- Referenced (sources documented?)
- Peer-reviewed (academically evaluated?)
- Appropriate study design (fits inclusion criteria?)
Getting Help

Ask a Librarian:
In Person at the Information Desk
By Telephone 5430 2803
Email InfoDesk@usc.edu.au
Or ‘Ask A Librarian’ online

OT Library Guide:
http://libguides.usc.edu.au/OT