Approaches to Study and Research at USC
Class Objectives

Purpose:

1. To understand why using academic information sources are important in your university studies, and how to access them.
2. To gain an awareness of the support services provided at USC and knowledge relating to understanding academic expectations at USC.

How many students are from school/ are currently at university – perhaps here for a semester?

What type of libraries are you familiar with?
Quiz

Where do you expect to find the most important information you will need for study?

a) In lectures/tutorials
b) Prescribed text(s) and readings listed in the course outline
c) On Blackboard
d) Library services and resources
e) All of the above
Completing Assignments

Planning steps for assignment completion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 1</th>
<th>Step 2</th>
<th>Step 3</th>
<th>Step 4</th>
<th>Step 5</th>
<th>Step 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Task analysis</td>
<td>Search &amp; select resources</td>
<td>Read</td>
<td>Draft</td>
<td>Edit &amp; proofread</td>
<td>Submit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule 1 hour</td>
<td>Schedule time over 2-3 days</td>
<td>Schedule time over 2 weeks</td>
<td>Schedule time over 2 weeks</td>
<td>Schedule time over 2 days</td>
<td>On time!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Allocate time over four weeks for each assignment
• Do your reading, note taking and planning over two weeks to allow time to think
• Do your drafting over another two weeks to allow time to think
https://www.usc.edu.au/learn/current-students/assignment-calculator

• Online Tools

Find the Assignment Calculator on the USC website
The assignment planning, preparation & writing process

Analyse question → Brainstorm → Research & Note → Plan & Prioritise → Start writing

Do you have good sources?

Yes → Revise draft → Edit

No → Find more evidence
Academic Research vs Google?

What is Google?
Who uses Google?
What type of information can be found using Google?
Is Google Scholar any better?

[Google Scholar]

Stand on the shoulders of giants

# The Publication Cycle: Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Source of Information</th>
<th>Type of Information</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Finding the Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Day of the Event</strong></td>
<td>News Reports (i.e. social media, TV and radio reports, web reports, blogsites)</td>
<td>General (who, what, and where; not necessarily why yet)</td>
<td>Reporters and general public</td>
<td>General Public</td>
<td>Web and communication devices (phones/tablets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1-3 Days</strong></td>
<td>News Reports (i.e. newspapers, radio, television, web pages)</td>
<td>Varies: some articles include analysis, statistics, photographs, editorial opinions No referencing of information yet</td>
<td>Reporters</td>
<td>General Public</td>
<td>Newspaper Indexes; Web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week</strong></td>
<td>Popular and Mass Market Magazines (i.e. Time, Newsweek, Nature)</td>
<td>Still in reporting stage (who, what, where, and why); general; editorial &amp; opinions; statistics; photographs Usually still no bibliography at this stage</td>
<td>Professional Journalists (not necc. specialists in the field)</td>
<td>General Public to Knowledgeable Layperson</td>
<td>Web, Databases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Months</strong></td>
<td>Scholarly Journals</td>
<td>Research results, detailed and theoretical discussion Bibliography available at this stage</td>
<td>Specialists and Scholars in the Field</td>
<td>Scholars, Specialists and Students</td>
<td>Databases; Bibliographies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Two Years to Ten Years</strong></td>
<td>Books and Conference Proceedings Reference Sources (i.e. specialized encyclopedias, handbooks, etc.)</td>
<td>In-depth coverage of a topic; edited compilations of scholarly articles relating to a topic Bibliography available. General overview giving factual information Bibliography usually available</td>
<td>Specialists and Scholars in the Field</td>
<td>General Public to Specialists</td>
<td>Library Catalogs; Reference lists from other publications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Researching your topic... 
... where to start?

What is your research question/ assignment?

1) What are the instructions for your assignment?

2) What are the keywords that describe your research topic, methodology, and/or expected outcomes?

3) What are the alternatives to these keywords (synonyms)? - e.g. spelling differences between Australian and American English.

4) Do you need a book, a journal article, or a mixture of resources?
The question (example)...

Evaluate the extent to which tourism contributes to the protection of the environment in Australia
1) What are the instructions for your assignment?

Evaluate the extent to which tourism contributes to the protection of the environment in Australia.
What are the instructions for your assignment?

Evaluate the extent to which tourism contributes to the protection of the environment in Australia
2) What are the **keywords** that describe your research topic?

Evaluate the extent to which tourism contributes to the protection of the environment in Australia.
What are the **keywords** that describe your research topic?

Evaluate the extent to which **tourism** contributes to the **protection of the environment in Australia**
3) What are the alternatives to these keywords (synonyms)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keyword</th>
<th>Alternative</th>
<th>Truncation</th>
<th>Wildcards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tourism</td>
<td>“sustainable tourism”</td>
<td>touris*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ecotourism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>protection</td>
<td>“environmental protection”</td>
<td>protect*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“environmental impact”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>environment</td>
<td>“natural environment”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Putting it all together ...

“phrase searching”
find an exact phrase
“higher education” “time management”

OR
find any of your keywords (alternative words)
nurse OR nurses OR nursing

truncation *
find all words starting with these letters
child* nurs*

AND
find all of your keywords (main topics)
“time management” AND “academic achievement” AND university
Connecting your keywords in searching ...

**AND**
- media **AND** bias

- media **AND** bias

  find **all** of your keywords (main topics)

**OR**
- atmosphere **OR** air pressure

- atmosphere **OR** air pressure

  find **any** of your keywords (alternative words)

**NOT**
- media **NOT** internet

- media **NOT** internet

- media **NOT** internet

  **exclude** words you don’t want to search
4) Do you need a book, a journal article, or a mixture of resources?

If you’re not sure what some of these information resources are (like journal articles, journals or databases), then watch this quick video!
from the author to you

ONLINE JOURNAL ARTICLES EXPLAINED

ARTICLE
An author writes an article and submits it to a journal

JOURNAL
Journals review and publish selected articles

DATABASE
A database is a collection of journal article records - they often include a copy of the articles, too.

VENDOR
Vendors provide access to databases. Some databases are accessible through multiple vendors.

LIBRARY
The Library pays a subscription to vendors to access their databases.

YOU
You login via the Library’s website to access the information you need for your assignments
Ok, now you know what you’re searching for, and some ideas about how to get good results 😊

Let’s look at some important library sources for your academic research
Start with the Library Homepage of course!
http://www.usc.edu.au/library
Log-in here, and get started

Find journal articles, books and more

Library chat
Library chat will return in Semester 1, 2018
Please contact the Library for help.

Login

Databases
Journal titles
Library guides
USC Research Bank
Discover tab is a good place to start

It is a single search of our
• Books and eBooks
• Online videos
• Journals
• Most of databases
Discover tab can be used for a simple keyword search ... 

... or an advanced search
A sample results page

These icons show you what type of resource you have found
A sample results page

This part of the record shows you online or on the shelf.
A sample results page

Your search can be narrowed down by using this column

Refine my results

☐ Expand results beyond USC Library

Sort by  Relevance  ▼

Show Only  ▲

Peer-reviewed Journals  (5,224)
Full Text Online  (6,702)
Available in the Library  (0)

Publication Date  ▲

From  1900  To  2018  Refine

Resource Type  ▼

Subject  ▼

Author  ▼

Location  ▼

Journal Title  ▼

Language  ▼

PAGE 1  6,707 Results

1. ARTICLE / multiple sources exist. see all
   The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Marine Protected Area: valuing local perspectives in environmental protection / Davey, Madeline ; Gillespie, Josephine
   Routledge
   positive attitude towards environmental protection in... environmental protection MADELINE DAVEY...
   environmental protection narrative
   ☑ Full text available ▶
   View Issue Contents (via BrowZine) ▼

2. BOOK
   An administrative guide to environmental requirements for tourism developments in Western Australia.
   Perth, W. A. : Western Australian Tourism Commission and Environmental Protection Authority. 1989
   Available at Sippy Downs General Collection (G155.A8 P67 1989 ) ▶

3. DISSERTATION
   Environmental protection and local resident attitudes at early stages of tourism development / Rastegar, Hamidreza Raymond
   2017
   ☑ Full text available ▶

4. BOOK
   The environment and Australia’s tourism industry / Huybers, Twan
   Canberra, A.C.T. : Tourism Council Australia. 1996
   Available at Sippy Downs General Collection (G155.A8 H9 1996 ) ▶
Peer review process

1. **Idea Theory Hypothesis**
2. **Research & write**
3. **Manuscript (proposed article)**
4. **Send to journal editor**
5. **Reviewed by 3-5 experts in the field**

Decision is made to accept, revise or reject article
What is peer-reviewed anyway?

(HINT: It’s good for academic research 😊)

How to tell if a journal is peer-reviewed
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpYDFsQeCeE 2:17 mins
Journal articles can be found under JOURNAL ARTICLES or JOURNAL TITLES
Search the A-Z list of database titles, or use the subject guides
Other major options from the library Home Page:

Library Guides are also a really valuable resource for your subject area, or to get HELP.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject area</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Law</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COR109</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Centre</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How to...</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How to...</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Collections</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Science</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary Preparation Pathway - TPP</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USC Staff</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lots of great information & resources
What to do when you’re not sure what to use or How to use it effectively?
PANIC
ACADEMIC SKILLS

Academic Skills provides a range of free services for you to develop your study skills, including:

• Time management
• Analysing your assignment question
• Referencing and research skills
• Reading, listening and note taking
• Proofreading and editing skills
• English language development
• Academic writing
• Technology skills
• Basic mathematical and statistical concepts
• Writing for science courses

You can access our services in a number of ways:

• One-to-one Appointments (book through Student Hub)
• Drop in sessions (No appointment necessary, further details check Academic Skills Essential page on USC website)
• Online Resources (Blackboard>Quick Links> Academic Skills)
• Academic Skills Workshops, check our Academic Skills Workshop page on the USC website
Librarian for you
Weeks 2 & 3

Don't know where to begin?
Book an appointment with a librarian today!

Book here: http://tiny.cc/oweeek

Email LibraryHelp@usc.edu.au for more information.
Need Help?

- Visit the Library Help Desk
- Call us on +61 7 5430 2804
- Email us at LibraryHelp@usc.edu.au
- See the “How to” Library Guides
- Chat to us Online
- Follow @LibraryUSC
Discuss the following question in pairs/groups:

How do you think the following university expectations compare in your home country and at USC?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Interacting with lecturers/tutors/peers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Participating in class discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Paraphrasing/expressing ideas in your own words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Critical thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Supporting arguments with evidence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Academic Expectations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In some countries</th>
<th>At USC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Students reproduce information from lectures/tutorials/readings in assignments and exams</td>
<td>• Students critically examine all course content, readings and resources; paraphrase the information; give their opinions; support opinions with evidence; and reference accurately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students do not question lecturers/tutors/peers</td>
<td>• Students critically and respectfully question all course material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students receive information from lecturers/tutors passively</td>
<td>• Students learn actively by asking questions and participating in class discussions and group assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Assignment deadlines are flexible</td>
<td>• Assignment deadlines are strict. You will lose marks if you submit work late. (Contact your lecturer if you have a legitimate reason for asking for an extension.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from: https://intranet.ecu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/495958/Academic_expectations.pdf
Independent Learning

It is your responsibility to...

• Manage your time and submit work when it is due
• Understand the penalties for late work
• Read critically and widely
• Use theories and ideas of others to support YOUR interpretations in YOUR writing
• Acknowledge the work of others in your writing through appropriate referencing
• Learn to reference/cite correctly. Plagiarism occurs when you use someone else’s ideas or thoughts as your own.
• Proofread your work
Where do your needs lie?

- You are an expert on yourself.
- Identify what your areas of concern are and address them early.
- Research these areas and ask for help.
- Use Blackboard and the USC website to access information on support services and resources.
Academic Skills Workshops

Academic Skills Workshops
Academic Skills provides a range of free workshops which help you develop skills and strategies to meet the demands of university study.

You can register for and attend as many of these workshops as you like. Choose from the list below. Workshop registration is open to all USC students across all USC campuses. For example if you study at Fraser Coast, you may attend the workshops offered at Sippy Downs.

Academic Skills Workshops are run pre-semester, in orientation week and during semester.

To register for a workshop
To register for any of these workshops log on as a current student in Student Hub by using your USC username and password. Once logged into Student Hub under the Home tab, navigate to Academic Advice and select View or register for Academic skills workshops and events. You can then search by campus or by workshop name.

Sippy Downs  Fraser Coast  Gympie  SouthBank

Study Skills
* Learning Strategies Workshop
Student Hub and Studiosity Services
Formally “Your Tutor”

If you are looking for some extra study support, Student Hub and Studiosity are two great online resources available to you.

Student Hub
Student Hub is an online booking system where you can make appointments and/or register for workshops and events.

Log in to Student Hub using your USC username and password to:
- Book in for a one-on-one appointment to obtain academic skills advice
- Book an appointment to discuss your career plan
- Register for Career Development events or Academic skills workshops and events
- Access online resources for career planning
- Search for jobs

Studiosity
Studiosity is the new name for YourTutor, the place for free, instant help online. The advice can help you get ‘unstuck’ in your learning or assignments.

Subject experts are online to answer your questions about English, maths, science, business, assignment writing and more, from 3pm to midnight Sunday to Friday and 12noon to midnight on Saturdays. You can also upload your draft assignment at any time and get feedback within 24 hours.
English for Academic Study (EAS) Workshops

This four part informal module is designed for all students (non-English speaking background and students with English as a first language) to:

- provide English language support
- assist in improving academic language skills

Weeks 1-4: Tues and Thurs
For oral skill: Conversation Club: Every week Wed 2pm

Please book through Student Hub/Academic Skills
Drop-in study support

What is a drop in session?
It's a chance to ask an academic skills adviser about your writing or study skills. They are 10-15 minute consultations, and no bookings are required.
- Do you need to get started on an assignment?
- Do you need help finding books, or journal articles?
- Are you unsure how to structure an assignment?
- Do you need help deciding if a source is scholarly or peer-reviewed?
- Do you need help with referencing?
- Do you want to work with course staff and other students?
- Do you have a specific question about an assignment?

If so, come along to a drop-in session to build research, writing, study and referencing skills! An academic skills adviser, a librarian and staff from a variety of courses will be available to assist.

What else is available?
If you cannot make it to the drop-in sessions:
- Make an appointment with a Student Academic Adviser by logging into Student Hub or using your USC username and password and under the Home tab, navigate to Academic Advice, select Book Appointment.
- See a Librarian on Level 1 of the Library and find out about research classes.
- Check out the Guides at USC Library, which can help you do assignment research.
- Browse the Academic Skills resources on Blackboard.
- Talk with your tutor, lecturer, or course coordinator.

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Academic Skills Drop in Sessions
Ask an academic skills adviser about your writing or study skills. Advisers are available for 10-15 minute consultations, and no bookings are required.

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USC also offers course specific drop in sessions on the Sunshine Coast campus
Check out the Business, Health, Psychology, Arts and Social Sciences, Nursing and Midwifery, Law, Criminology and Justice, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths tabs below for course specific support.

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Are you enrolled in CORtop? Stop by any of our drop in sessions if you have questions about that subject.
Blackboard
How to Access Academic Support (Summary)

- **Lecturer/Tutor/Peers**: check consultation times and locations; email
- **Library Desk** – Book into Librarian for You (Week 2/3)
- **Academic Skills Workshops**: book on Student Hub
- **Academic Skills Advisers**: book a 30-min appointment on Student Hub
- **Drop in Sessions**:
  - Academic Skills in EG.10 and Library 10.30am each day.
  - Drop ins specifically for students studying subjects in: Business; Health; Psychology, Arts and Social Sciences; Law, Justice and Criminology; Science and Maths; and for COR 109 students.
- **Online Information**: Look for **Academic Skills** under Quick Links on Blackboard
Receive a free pen!!!

Simply provide your valuable feedback –

http://tiny.cc/freepen