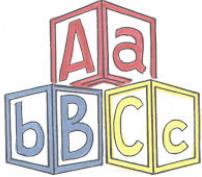


ONLINE SEARCH STRATEGIES

How to access good quality resources and step up your research game.



1. USE KEYWORD BUILDING BLOCKS

Brainstorm key words, search terms and synonyms.

Use these as building blocks for your searches. Combine them in different varieties using Boolean operators like OR and AND. Using different combinations will sometimes find you different sources.

2. IMAGINE YOUR DREAM DOCUMENT AND PREDICT THE FILE TYPE.



What would be your "dream document"? What would really help you answer your question or back up your stance? Is that dream document likely to be in a book, a journal, a presentation, a blog, a magazine, news article etc. Using these key words in your search bar will help narrow your search to see if it exists! Or if not, help you find the closest thing to it!
**It may also be worth it to check out [Google Books](#) (which will lead you to pages of relevant books available online)*



3. CITATION CHAINING

Citation chaining is when you identify one solid information source (such as a relevant article) and use their list of resources or references to look for other useful sources.

4. AUTHOR SEARCH



When you discover a particular author who regularly writes in your area of interest, you may benefit from searching the author's other works. In addition, searching the authors name in Google Scholar might lead you to their Google Scholar Profile as well as other works of theirs.

HELPFUL REMINDERS AND TIPS

REMEMBER THE CRAAP TEST!



Currency
Relevance
Accuracy
Authority
Purpose

SCAN BEFORE YOU DEEP DIVE

Before you read the entire document, scan or skim the document, does it look like this is going to be relevant to you and reliable. Do you see sections or section headings that relate. Is this worth reading the whole thing carefully?

CONTROL SEARCH WITHIN AN ONLINE DOCUMENT

Use Control "f" for finding text within a document.
Use quotes for searching for "an entire phrase"



CITABILITY IS NOT THE SAME AS HELPFULNESS

If you decide a source is not reliable enough to use evidence from or cite, it doesn't mean it can't help you or that reading it was completely a waste! Sometimes these sources can lead you to other more credible sources or give you some keywords you can use in your next search.