

Research Skills

Be effective and efficient

Work smarter



Why?

In a nutshell, research skills help us find answers to questions.

Research skills are the ability to search for, find, collect, analyse, interpret and evaluate information that is relevant to the subject being studied.

The internet is a huge part of our lives. Using search engines (like Google) is the way most of us research. Whether you're finding cheap flights, a top restaurant or information for an assignment it's all research!

Many sources of information:

- Internet
- Books
- Journals
- Newspapers
- Magazines



All available at the college LRC where the friendly team will support you with your research or accessing information.

How to use basic search operators

Search operators are commands that help you filter and refine search engine results. Here are some basic search operators:

“ “ quotation marks allow you to be specific. All of your search results will contain that term.

And All of your search results will contain both terms.

Or All of your search results will contain either term.

- That term will be excluded from your search results.

For example:

Imagine you have an assignment to research for about the feud between Tesla and Edison.

These were my search results:

Nikola Tesla	35,200,000 results
Tesla and Edison	10,400,000 results
Nikola Tesla –motors	1,050,000 results
Tesla and Edison "rivalry"	87,500 results

Do you believe everything you read on the internet?

Evaluate information found in your searches by questioning it. Use your Critical Thinking skills:

- Is it up to date?
- Is the site secure?
- Is the information from a trusted source?
- Can the information be confirmed from at least one other source?
- Is it a blog? Is it biased? Is it trying to persuade you to think in a certain way?

To recap:

- Think about exactly what it is you want to know
- Search carefully on the internet and use search operators
- Evaluate your research results

Here's a short video to demonstrate:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTJygQwYV84>