Australian National University

Advanced digital research

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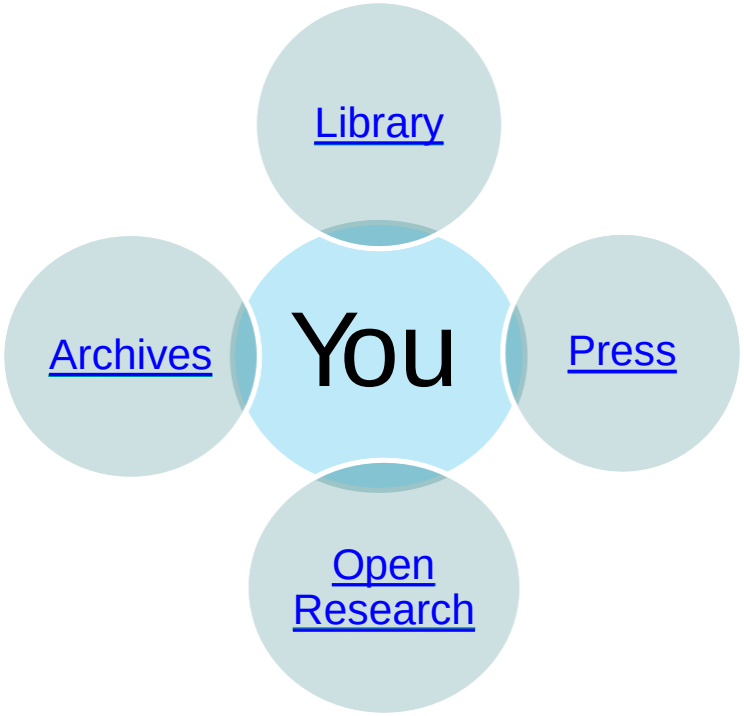
Scholarly Information Services (SIS)



SIS provides digital resources for research, teaching and learning - 24/7 access, on or off campus.

Australian National University

ANU Library

One Library, five specialised branches

anulib.anu.edu.au

Context - the research skillset

Embark & clarify	Respond to or initiate research and clarify or determine what knowledge is required, heeding ethical, cultural, social and team (ECST) considerations.
Find & generate	Find and generate needed information/data using appropriate methodology.
Evaluate & reflect	Determine and critique the degree of credibility of selected sources, information, and data. Metacognitively reflect on processes used.
Organise & manage	Organise information and data to reveal patterns and themes, as well as manage teams and research processes.
Analyse & synthesise	Analyse information/data critically, and synthesise new knowledge to produce coherent individual/team understandings.
Communicate & apply:	Discuss, listen, write, present and perform the processes, understandings and applications of the research, and respond to feedback, accounting for ethical, cultural, social and team (ECST) issues.

Researcher Skill Development Framework rsd.edu.au

Identifying appropriate sources

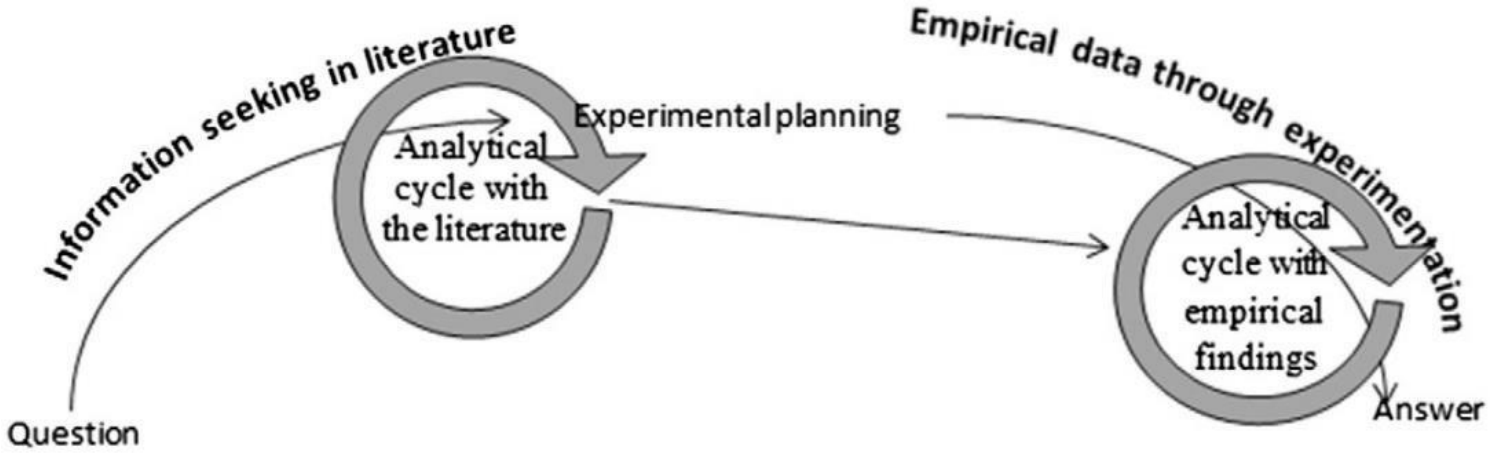


Fig. 2. Original research process.

Image credit: Nina Exner, "Research Information Literacy: Addressing Original Researchers' Needs," The Journal of Academic Librarianship 40, no. 5 (2014), p.462

Identifying appropriate sources contd

Key questions

1. What are the core information sources in your discipline?
   - Which are the seminal works?
   - How have these sources formed the body of knowledge?
   - How do these works fit into the narrative of the disciplinary foundations and development?
   - What are the key theories and central debates?
   - Which scholars have proposed or are proposing new ideas or debunking major arguments in the field?
1. What are the information needs for your literature review?
2. What are the resource types you will need/create for your original research process?

Brainstorming to find search terms

Free writing exercise 5 minutes

- Brainstorm keywords, key concepts
- Unedited writing about your research question and/or sub-questions OR current assessment question

Search string - example

("Political economy" OR politic*) AND ("Solomon Islands" OR Melanesia) AND (Westminster OR "British political system")

Search strategy grid - example

("Political economy" OR politic*) *Key term 1*

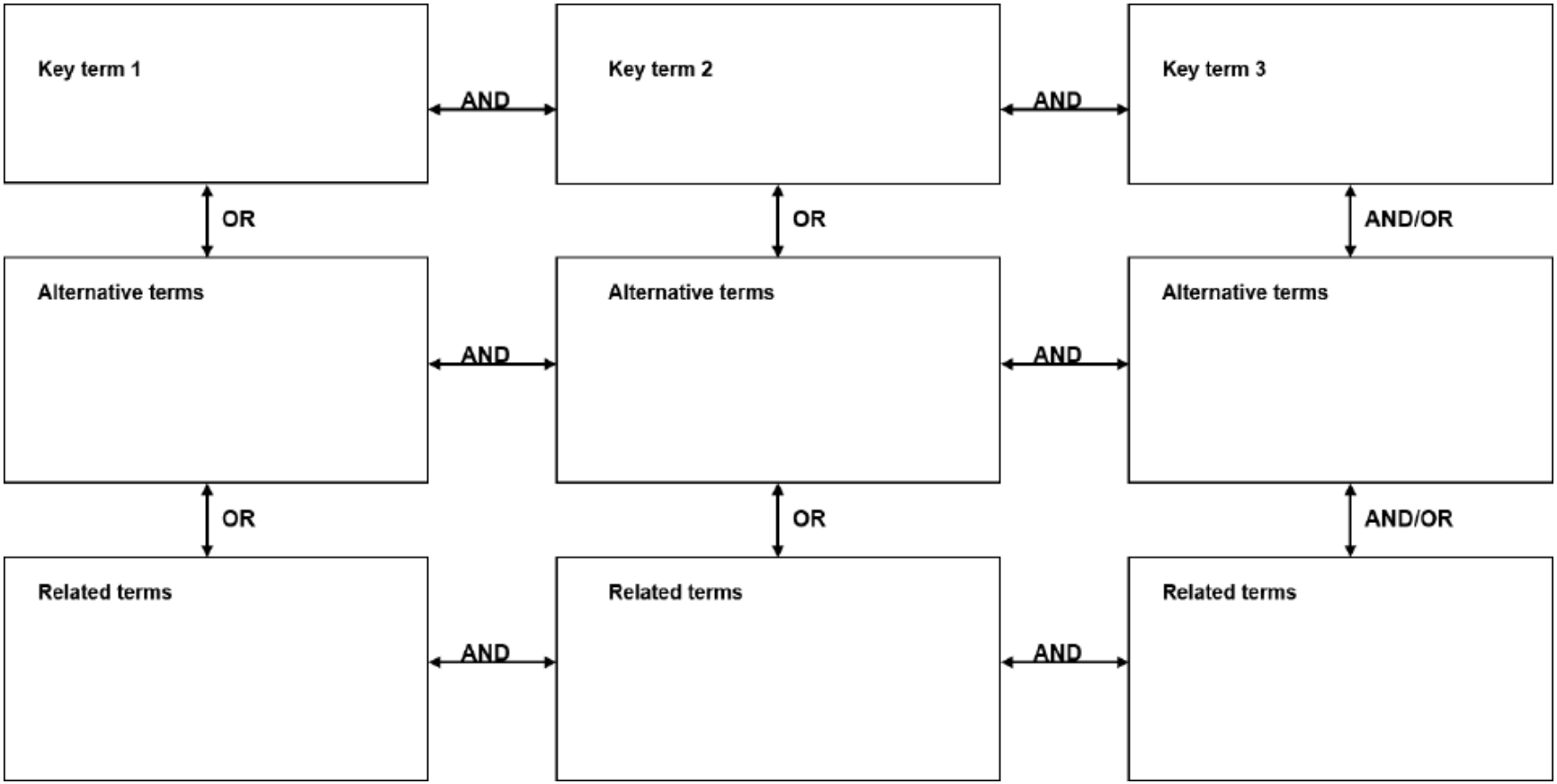
AND

("Solomon Islands" OR Melanesia) *Key term 2*

AND

(Westminster OR "British political system") *Key term 3*

Search strategy grid



Search syntax

“ ” to search for two or more terms as a phrase

“Australian Open” “global financial crisis”

***** for multiple unknown or variable characters in the term **environ*** returns **environment, environmentalists, environmentalism**

? for a single unknown or variable character in the term **globali?ation** returns **globalisation, globalization**

t??th returns **teeth** or **tooth**

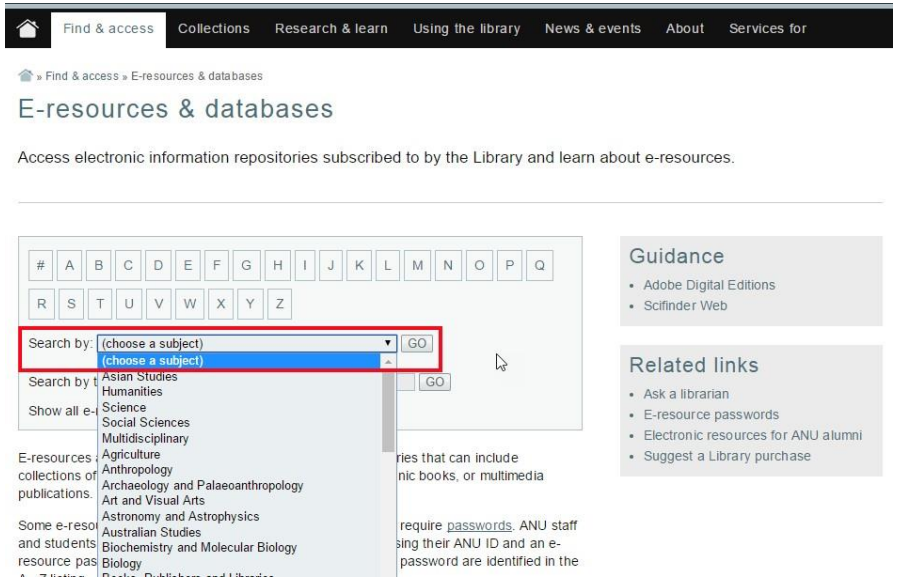
Finding sources

- Reference materials
- Library catalogue
- SuperSearch
- Google Scholar
- ANU Databases
  - ProQuest
  - Web of Science
  - JSTOR
  - Scopus
- Archives, ANU Open Research, ANU Press, DOAJ

ANU Databases

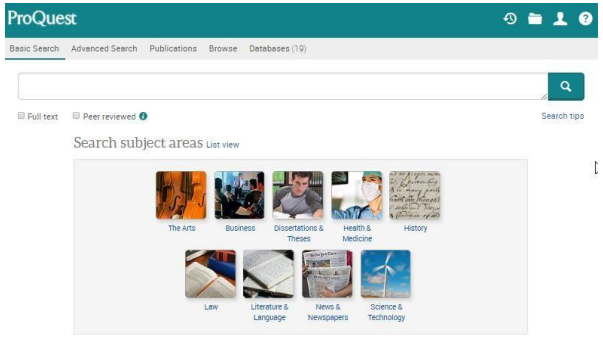
ANU Databases – specialised, multi-disciplinary and subject-based collections; 24/7 access, on or off campus.

Choose from the A-Z listing or by subject:

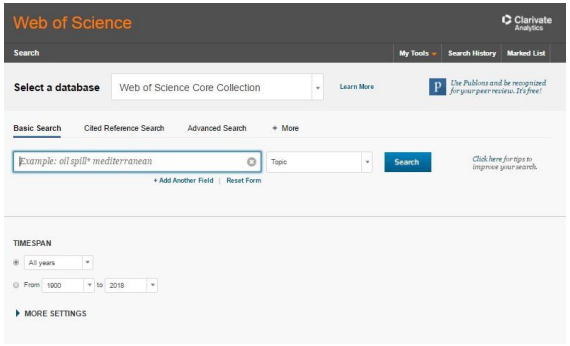


ANU Databases

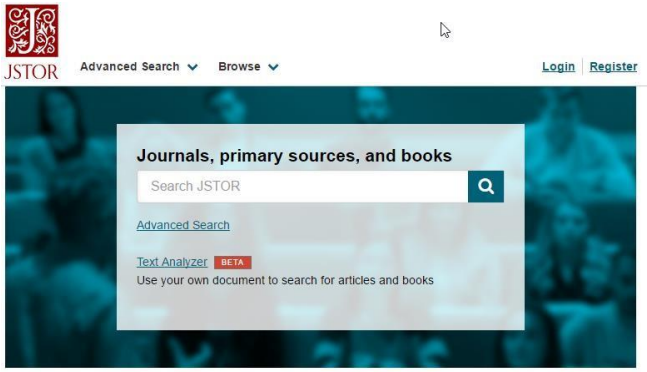
ProQuest



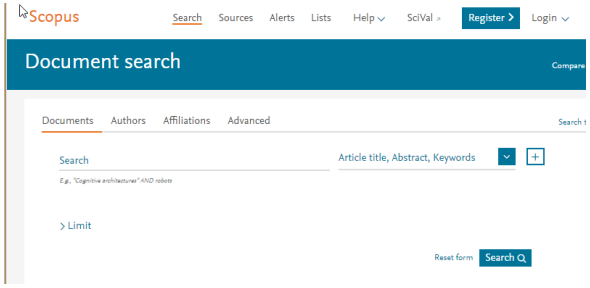
Web of Science



JSTOR



Scopus



Next steps…

1. Apply your search strings across a number of databases
2. Compare results and critically evaluate the sources and information you find
3. Refine your searches and try different combinations of terms
4. Record your searches and resources used
5. Book a research consult with your subject expert anulib.anu.edu.au/about/contacts-feedback

SIS - support and training

Support

- Information Desk in any library
- AskANU IT Consultants at Chifley Library help with IT issues and requests wireless, email, passwords, EndNote

Training

ql.anu.edu.au/libraryevents

Contact

library.info@anu.edu.au