

# gc Extended Project

## Library and Resource Area – Helping with Your Research

### Getting Started

Once you have chosen your broad topic area you are ready to begin your research. Your initial research will help you focus on your topic and should guide your project development.

Remember 20% of the total marks are awarded for your research.

Listed below are some useful starting points for your research and obviously your starting point will be governed by the topic area you have chosen.

#### **College Library:**

Use the Library catalogue for keyword searches or to find specific resources by author/title etc.

Access via [Moodle](#) homepage or directly -

<http://library.greenhead.ac.uk/heritage/>

- DVDs and videos are useful for general background.
- Textbooks for theory
- Journals (Magazines) and Newspapers for the most up-to-date information.
- Statistics collection for authoritative facts.

#### **University Library:**

At some stage you should all visit the University Library.

- Take your student card and a letter from the gc library to gain admission.
- See gc library if you want to borrow their resources.
- Access Huddersfield University Library Catalogue

<http://www.cls.hud.ac.uk/cls-bin/cls.pl?c=24/18/19>

#### **Electronic Resources:**

It is vitally important that you plan and record any web search that you undertake.

See the handout - [Finding & Evaluating Information on the Internet](#)

Resources you use from the web must be reliable academic sources. By all means use Google but why not try some of these alternatives first - listed in no particular order.

- **Newsbank** - newspaper archive. <http://infoweb.newsbank.com/> - Excellent for general background on 'issues' based topics. Restrict your searches to the *Guardian, Independent and Daily Telegraph* for best results. (only available in college)
- **New Scientist Archive** - <http://www.newscientist.com/home.ns> - Log in as an "Institutional subscriber"
- Try some of the higher education gateways.

**Intute** - <http://www.intute.ac.uk/> is a good place to start. Try their '*Internet Detective*' - a very good training site for internet research -

<http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/detective/index.html>

Other specific subject gateways are listed at the **Pinakes** site -

<http://www.hw.ac.uk/libWWW/irn/pinakes/pinakes.html>

Other trustworthy sites for general information and often a good place to start (depending on your area of research). All of these resources provide reliable links to other related websites.

- BBC - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>
- NHS - <http://www.nhs.uk/Pages/homepage.aspx>
- Issues Online - <http://www.independence.co.uk/> - compliments the Issues series of books in the College Library.
- Kirklees 24 Hour Library - includes Grove Dictionary of Music, Grove Dictionary of Art, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.  
<http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/community/libraries/infoservices/24hour.asp>  
All very authoritative sources - but you will need a Kirklees Library card to access them. (Also available via other local library authorities)
- National Statistics - <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/> - government statistics. Easy to get lost in this site - please ask for help if required.

## Search Engines

- Google Scholar - <http://scholar.google.co.uk/> - link from the Google homepage. Only searches academic resources. Probably a good site to try when you have a reasonable grasp of the topic you are researching.
- Kartoo - <http://www.kartoo.com/> - an alternative search engine. Provides results in the form of mind maps and suggests alternative search terms. A good place to try if you're starting from a broad topic area.

Access this document via [Moodle](#) or there are links to all of the sites listed above from the college intranet, <http://gcintranet.greenhead.ac.uk/links/index.htm>

## Study Skills

Lots of information in the Library on study skills - note taking; essay writing; making presentations.

This website at Manchester University is a good guide - especially the sections on essay writing and presentations.

<http://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/studyskills/>

Use the college *Study Centre* - help and advice available there.