Australian National University

Researching and finding sources

Scholarly Information Services (SIS)

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ANU Library

Australian National University

ANU Library

One Library, five specialised branches

anulib.anu.edu.au

Scholarly Information Services (SIS)

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

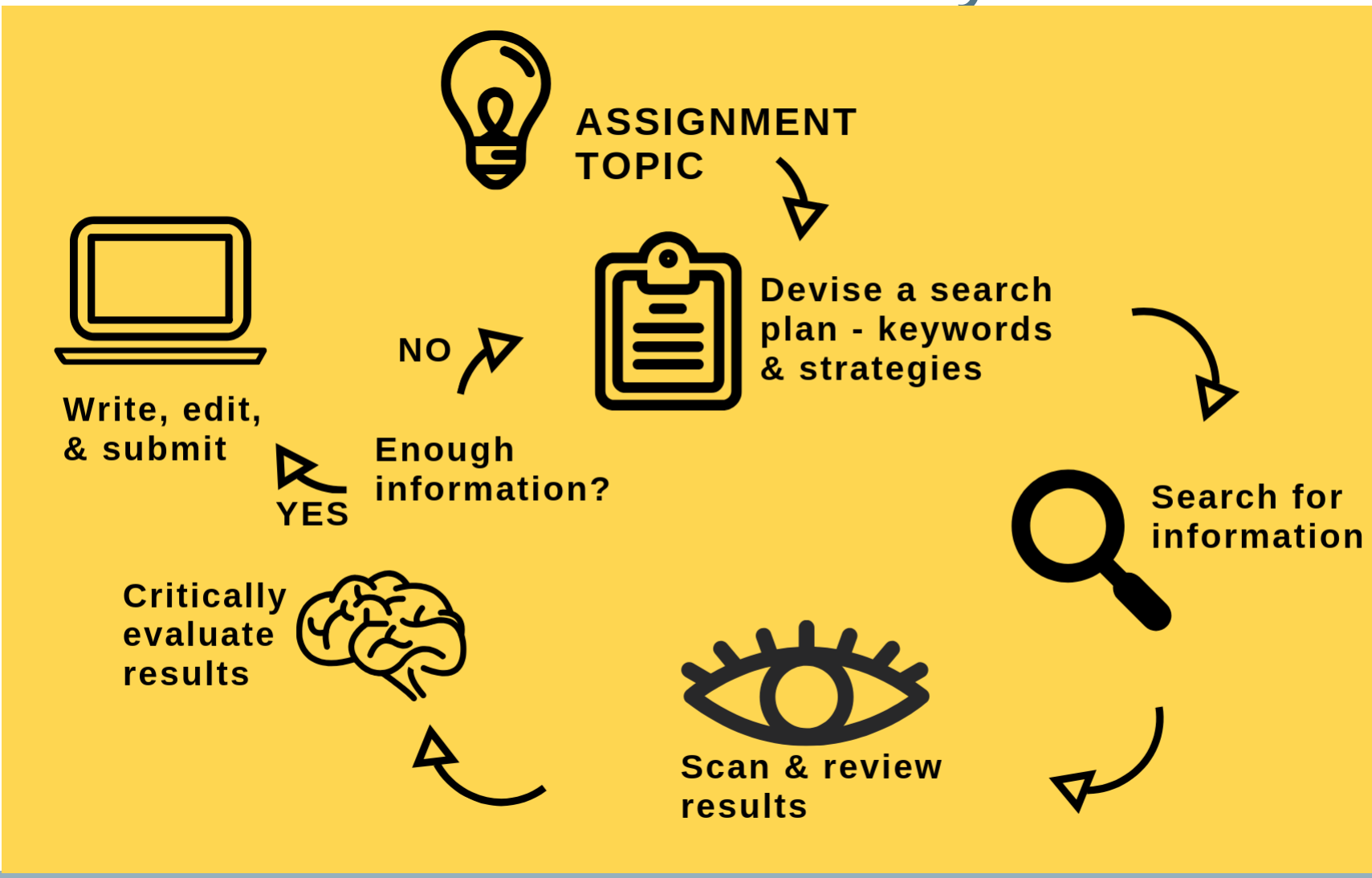
SIS - Library

Finding scholarly resources with ‘How-to’ guides:

- Finding Journal articles and more
- Finding books and more
- Ebooks
- Topic analysis
- Evaluating sources

anulib.anu.edu.au/howto

The modern research cycle



To begin…devise a plan

1. **Topic analysis:** what is the question asking? What types of information might I need to answer the question?
2. **Search strategies:** brainstorm keywords and search terms?
3. **Search tools:** which are most appropriate for what I need?
4. **Critically evaluate:** is the information scholarly and/or credible, is there bias etc?
5. **Refine:** review my search terms and search tools, search again and re-evaluate the information found

Sample question

In Victoria, Indigenous Australians who plead guilty to some offences can choose to be sentenced by the Koori Court rather than the Magistrates Court. The purpose of these Koori courts is to make the legal system less alienating and more culturally appropriate for Aboriginal communities. Is there a place for programs such as the Koori Court in the Australian legal system? Should there be courts for other groups in our society?

CHOOSING KEYWORDS

ANALYSING YOUR RESEARCH TOPIC

DESCRIBE YOUR TOPIC

- Try to phrase your topic as a question to guide your research. Don't worry if this changes as you progress.
- List the main concepts/themes/theories you are most interested in exploring.

IDENTIFY MAIN CONCEPTS

- Identify the main concepts in your description (nouns & verbs)
- Try to avoid relational words (affect, cause, impact) unless you are finding too many resources.

BRAINSTORM RELATED WORDS

- Think of other words or phrases used in relation to your topic.
- Are there any different spellings or synonyms you could use?

ANU Library

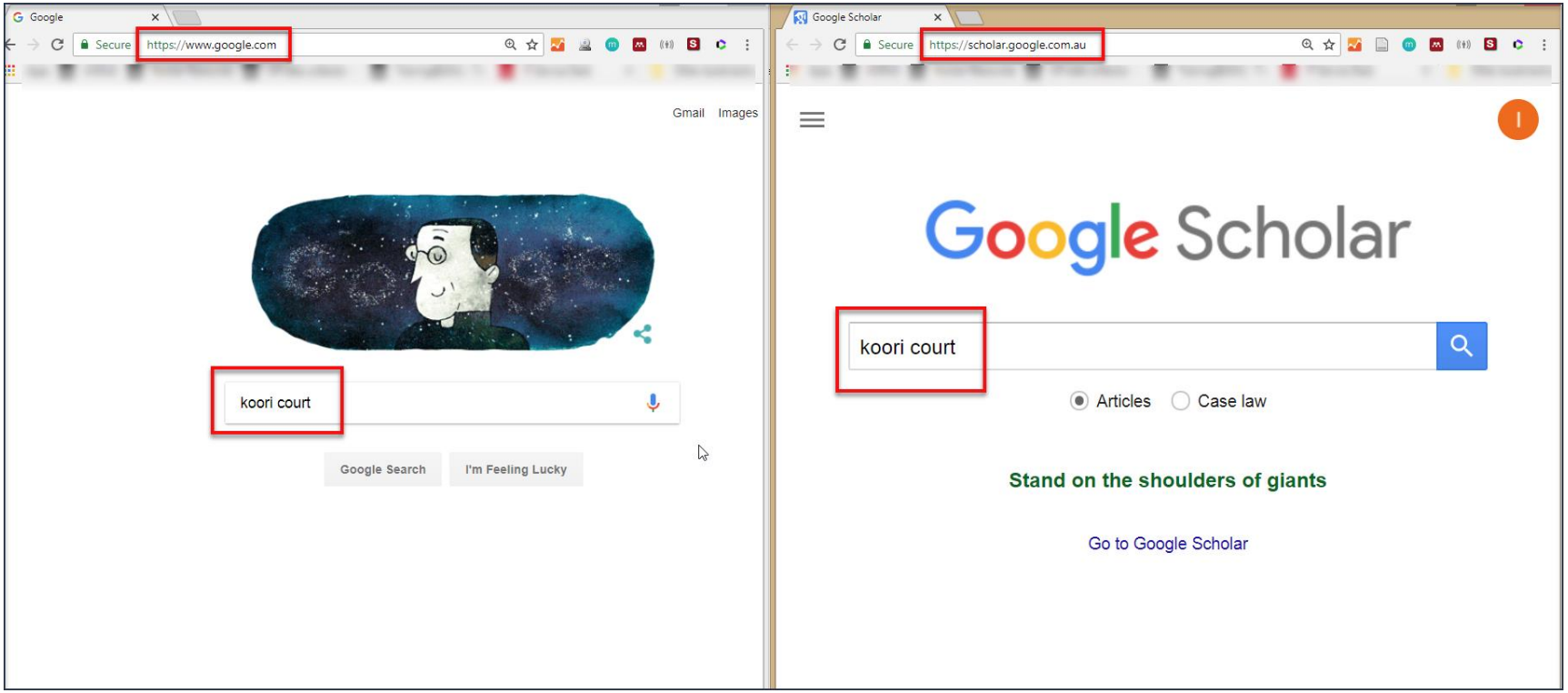
Keyword brainstorming

pollev.com/anulibrary

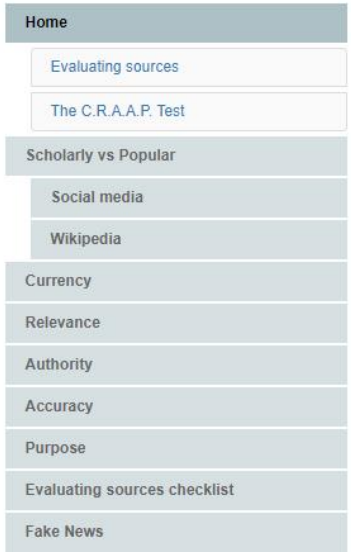
Keywords and thinking time

Indigenous Australians
Sentencing
Koori Court
Magistrates Court
Australian legal system
Less alienating/isolating
Culturally appropriate
Aboriginal communities
Society
Groups (ethnic, cultural)
Youth
Evaluate

Search – apply your keywords



Exercise - evaluate your sources



libguides.anu.edu.au/evaluating

Google Scholar

Google Scholar – search engine for scholarly resources that complement ANU-subscribed and created content

Set your device for ANU Google Scholar (Find it at ANU) access: ql.anu.edu.au/scholar

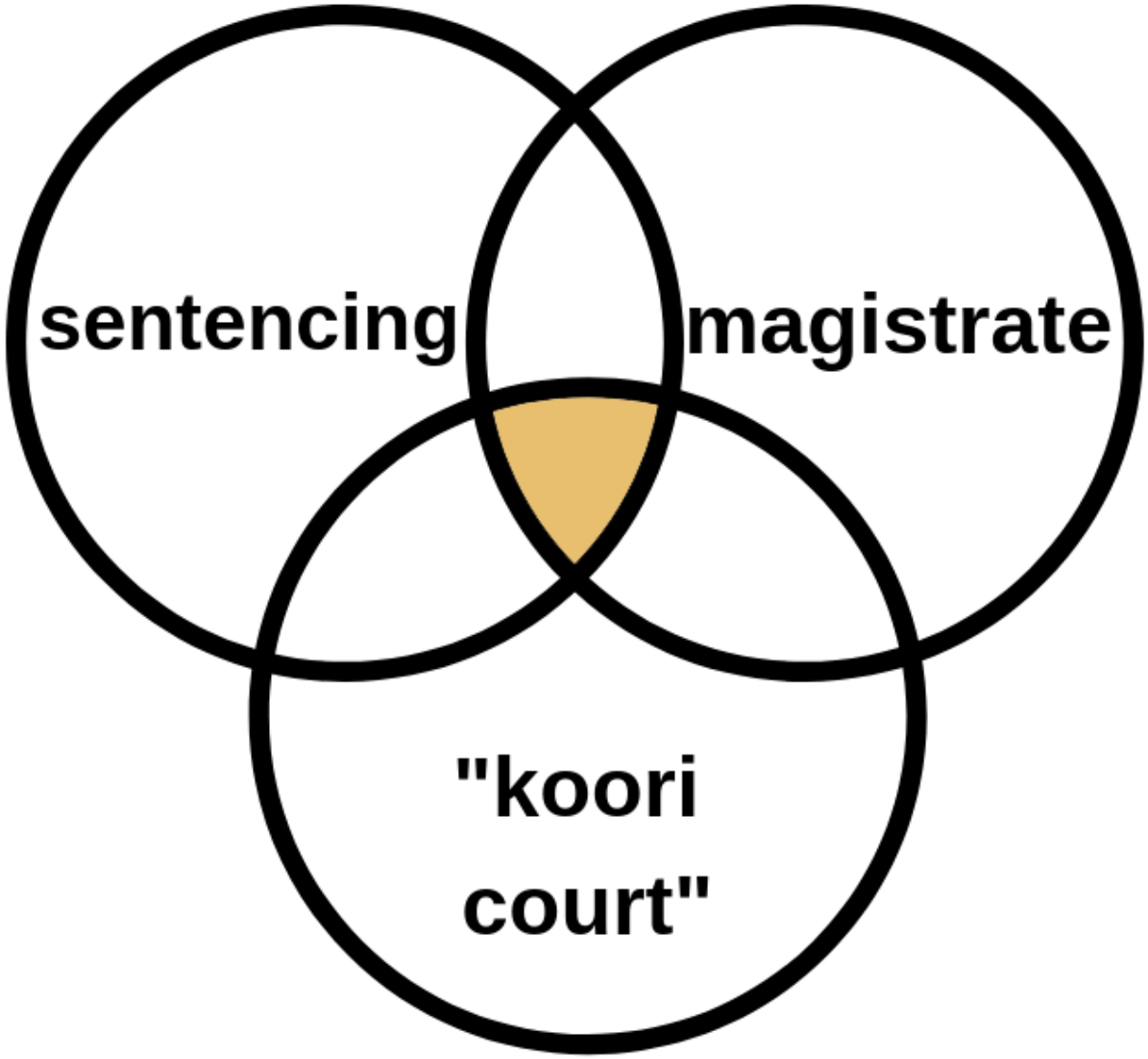
Combining keywords

- Use Boolean operators for targeted search results
- AND, OR, NOT

AND

sentencing **AND**
magistrate
AND
“koori court”

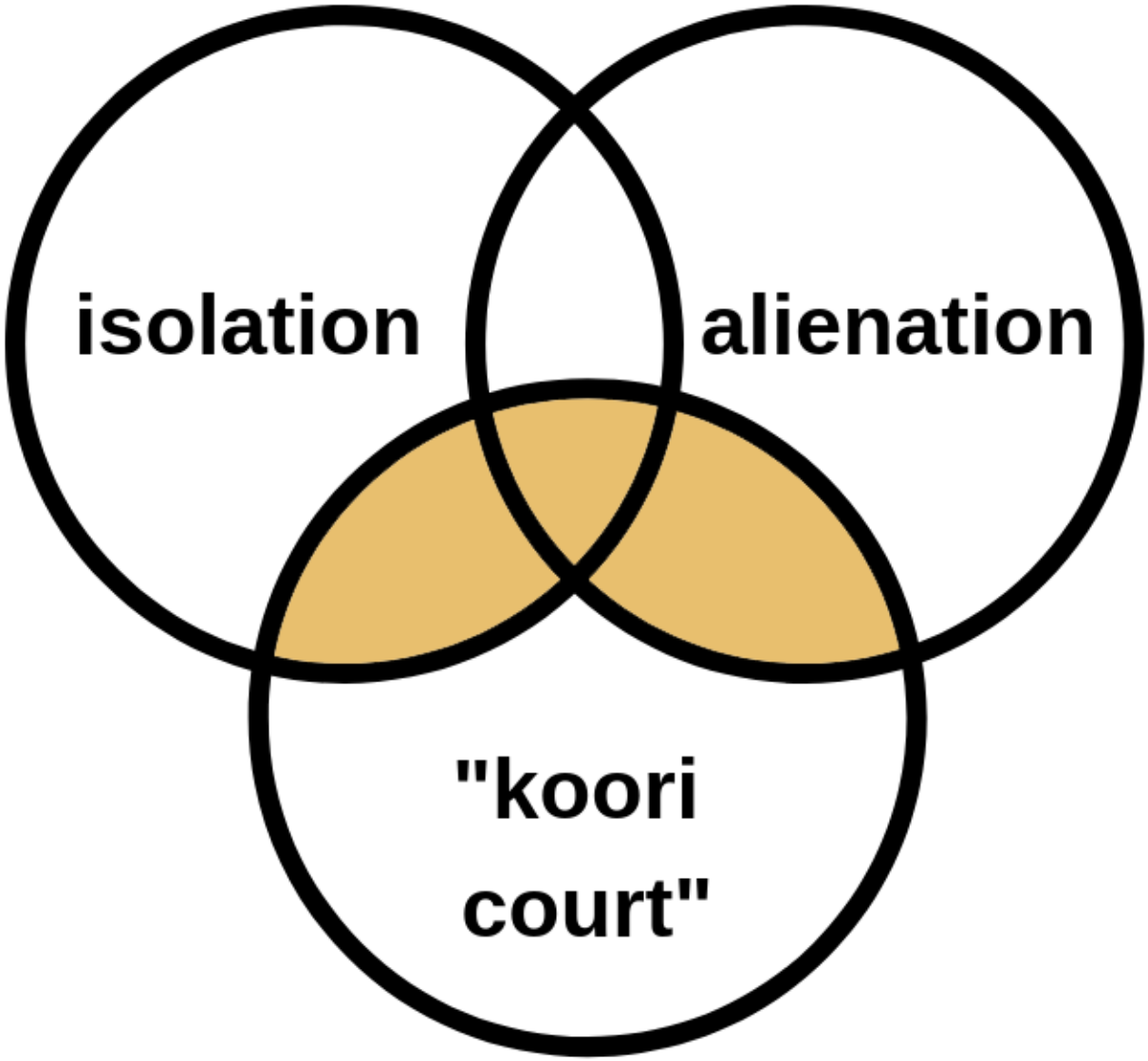
Narrows your search yield



OR

isolation **OR** alienation **AND** “koori court”

Expands your search yield



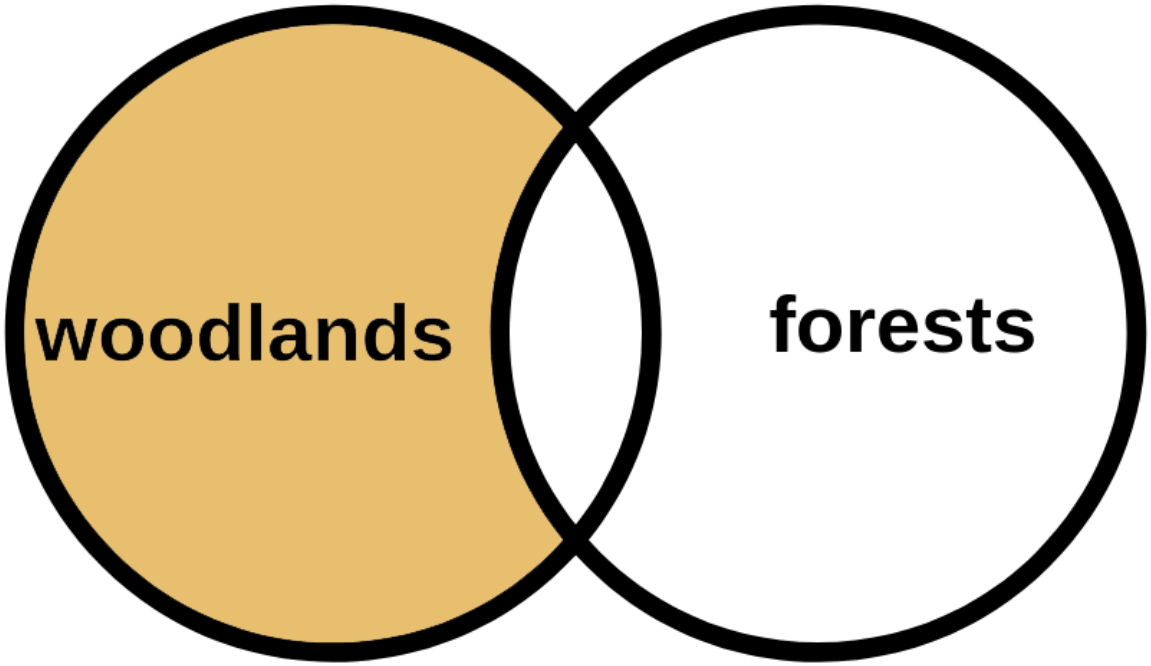
NOT

–

woodlands **NOT** forests

Woodlands -forests

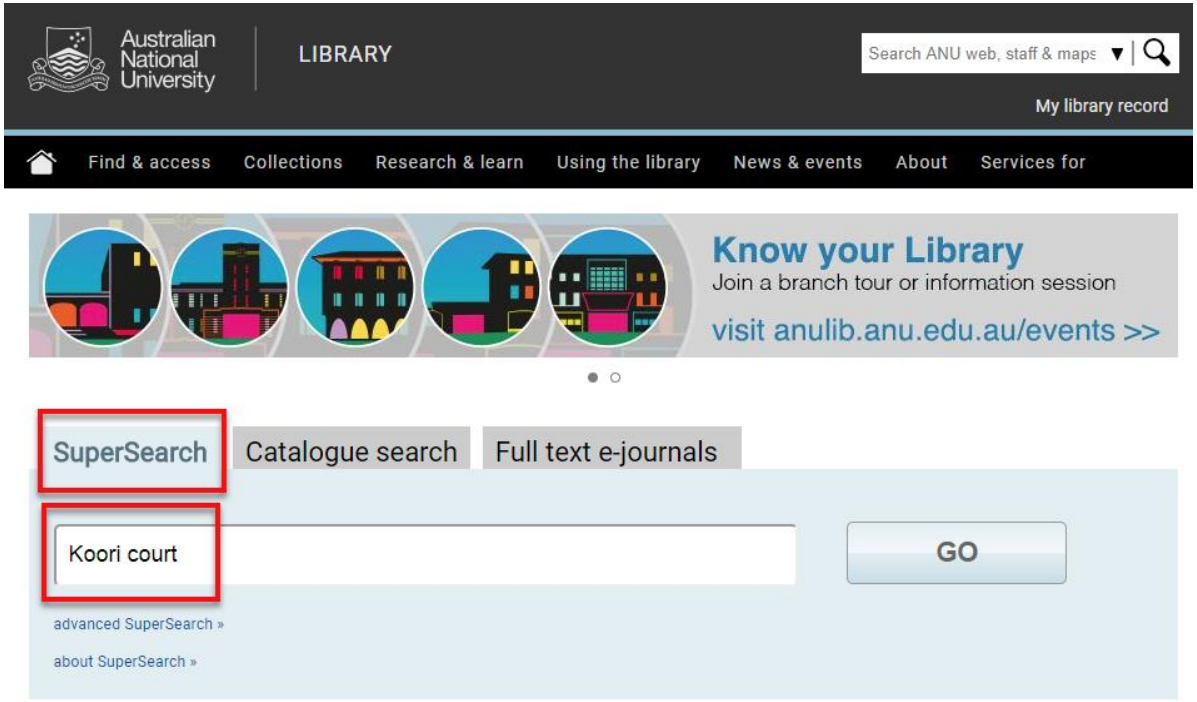
Narrows your search yield



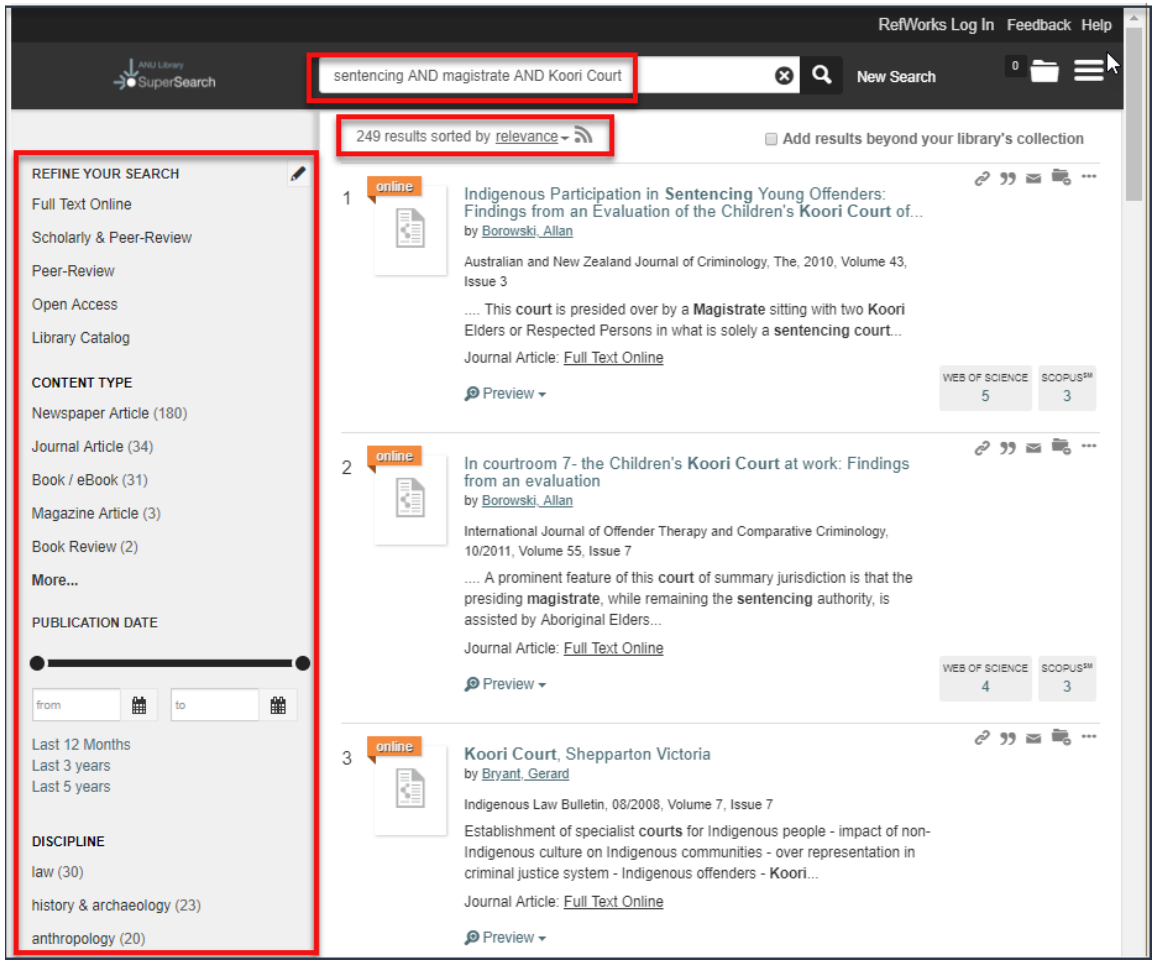
Results will contain woodlands, NOT forests

SuperSearch

SuperSearch – single search across the majority of SIS collections



Search with combined keywords



Other tips

“ ” to search for two or more terms as a phrase
“magistrates court” “Australian legal system”

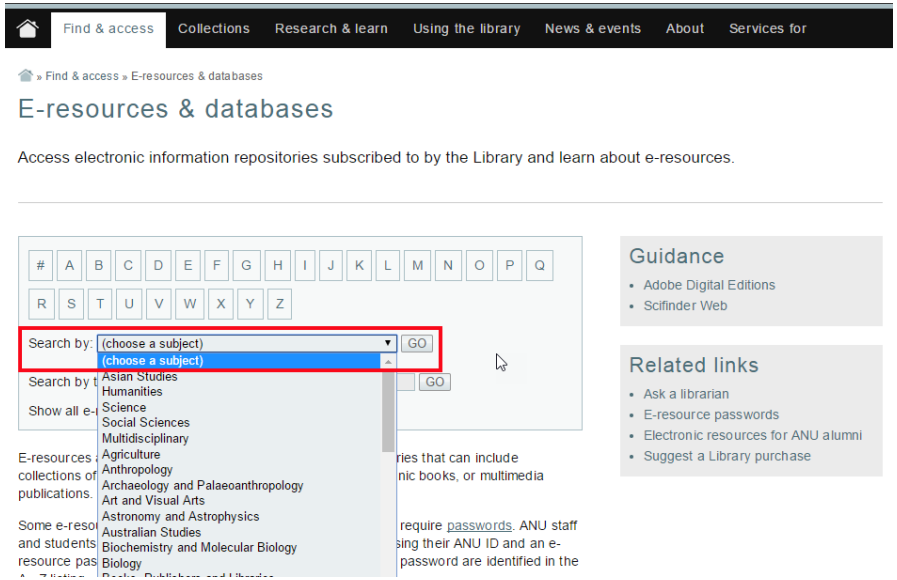
***** for multiple unknown or variable characters in the term
Australia* returns **Australia, Australians, Australia’s**

? for a single unknown or variable character in the term
characteri?e returns **characterise, characterize**

ANU Databases

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

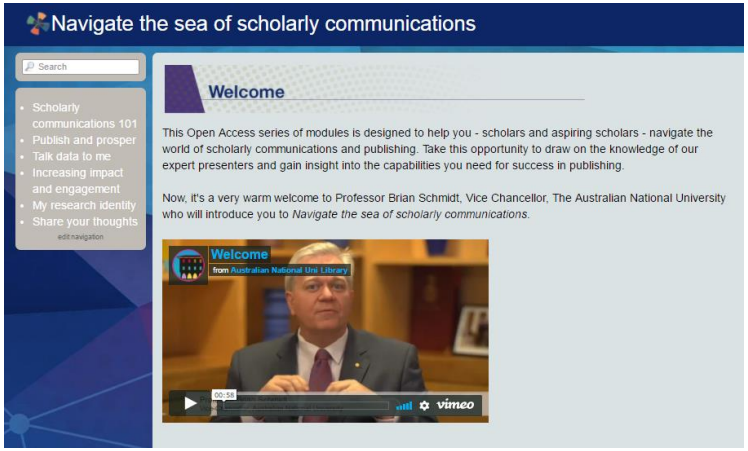
Choose from the A-Z listing or by subject:

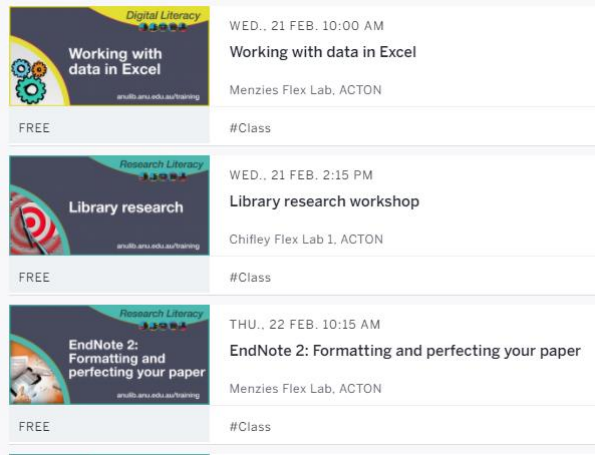


SIS - Library

Library assistance is also available for:

- IT & reference management software support
- copyright, data management and publishing advice
- digital literacy and research skills
- advanced Word, thesis formatting support





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

anulib.anu.edu.au/training-events

Contact

library.info@anu.edu.au

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