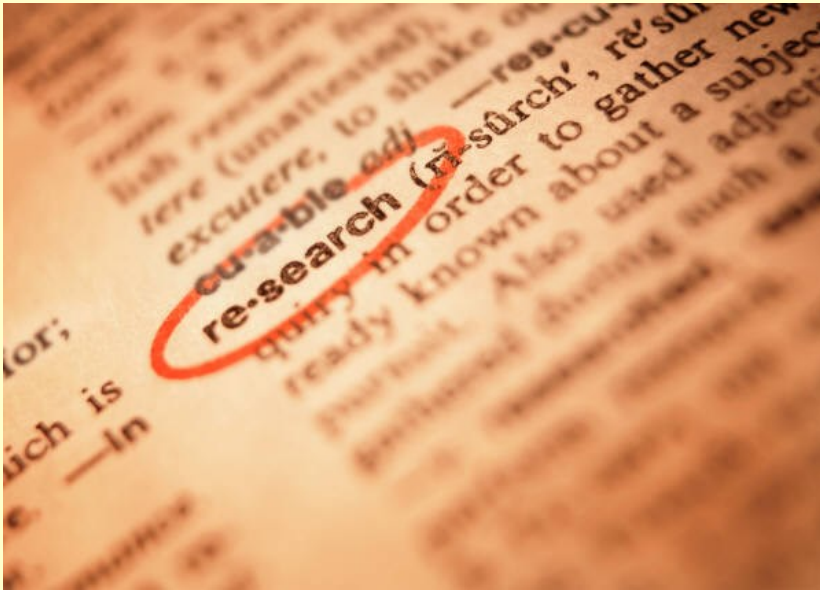


Doing Research – A Guide

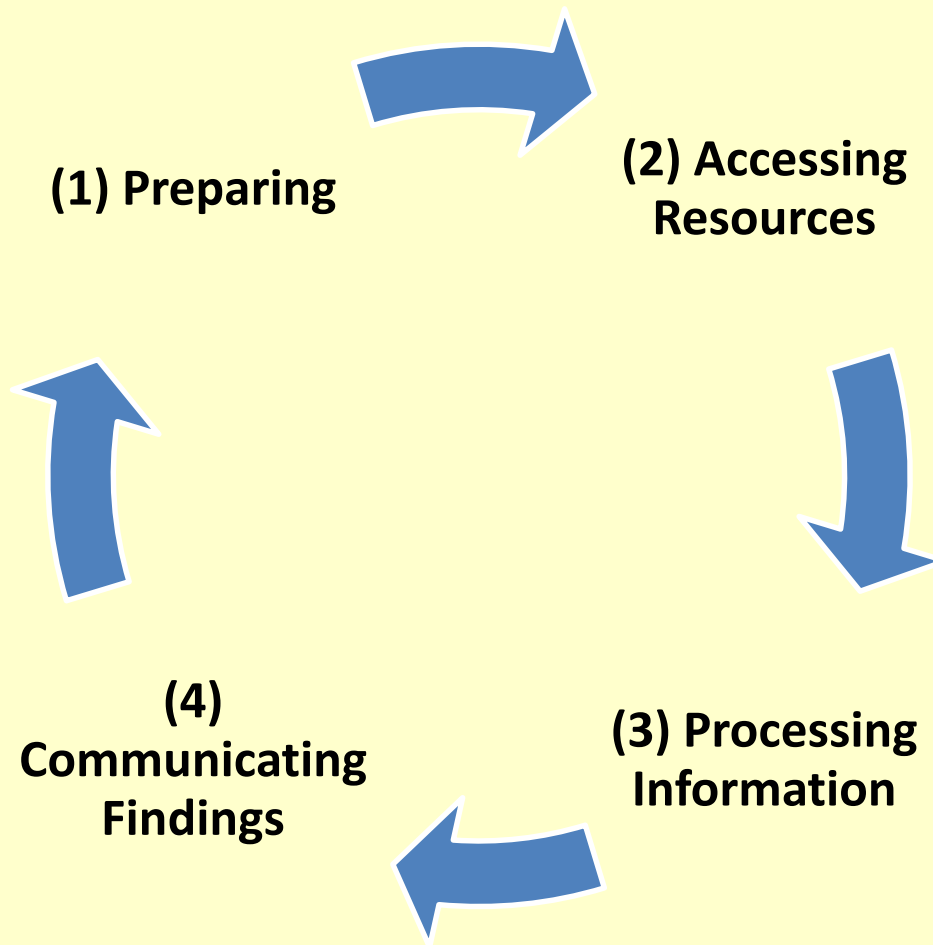


Dr. Laura Costelloe,
Learning Support Tutor
E-mail: laura.costelloe@ncirl.ie
Room 2.27

By the end of this lecture you will be able to:

- Identify the four stages of research.
- Analyse the questions that are asked of you.
- Develop keywords that are likely to find the information that you are searching for.
- Critically evaluate sources of information, particularly websites.
- Know where to access learning support in NCI.

Four Stages of Research



Being a “curious researcher” (Ballenger, 2007: 10)

The understanding
that inquiry is driven
by questions not
answers

The willingness to
suspend judgment
and to tolerate
ambiguity

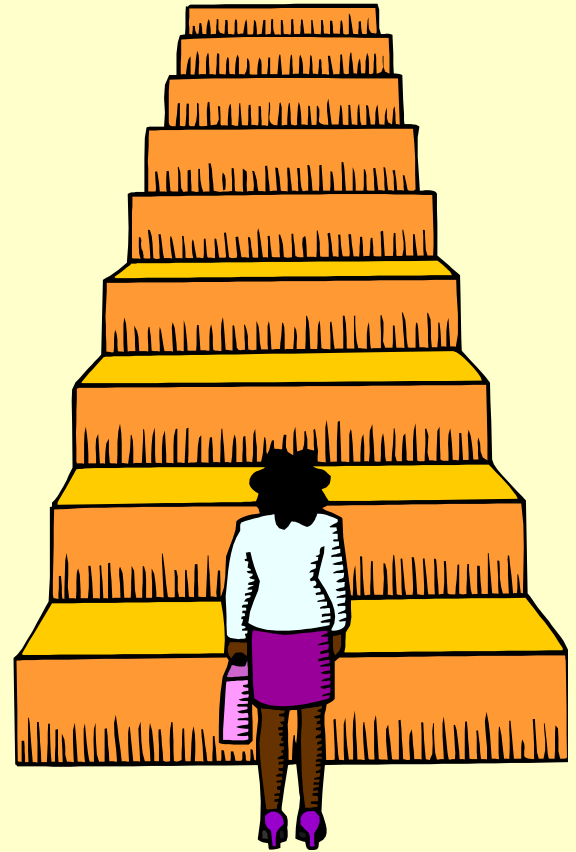
The writer’s willingness to take
responsibility for his or her
ideas, accepting both the
credit for and the consequence
of putting forth these ideas for
dialogue and debate.

(1) PREPARING FOR RESEARCH: UNDERSTANDING THE QUESTION

First steps....

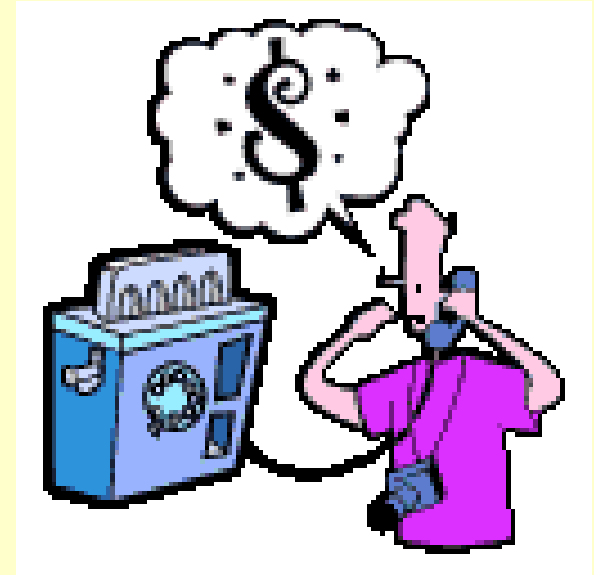
Requirements?

- Length
- Marking Scheme
- Submission Date
- Communicating findings
 - Written report
 - Worksheet
 - Email....



Understanding The Question

Use a
dictionary/thesaurus
/online resources to look
up any words you don't
know



Ask for help! e.g. your
lecturer, your
classmates....

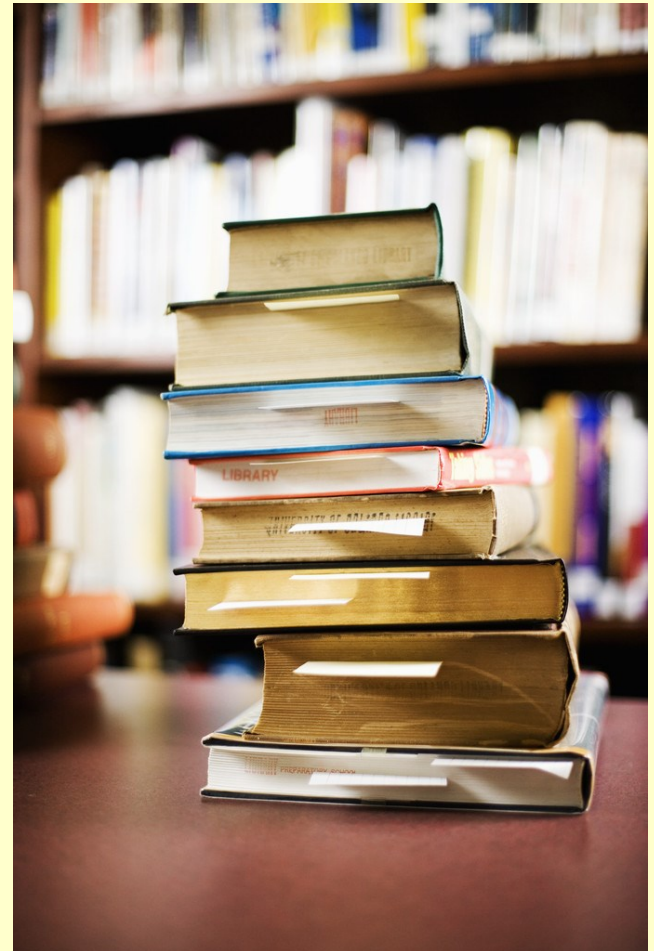
Some words to help

Analyse	Break it down into parts. Tell about each of the parts.
Compare	Tell all the ways they are the same.
Contrast	Tell all the ways they are different
Describe	Tell me about it. Give details about it. Paint a picture with words.
Evaluate	Tell the good and the bad. Judge it.
Explain	Teach me or show me. Tell the steps.
Formulate	Come up with, make a plan, develop, make, or create.
Infer	Read between the lines. What is the hidden meaning?
Predict	Make an educated (smart) guess, based on evidence.
Summarise	Tell the main details in a concise way.
Support	Back up the information. Prove or provide evidence
Trace	Follow, track, outline, list in steps.

(2) ACCESSING RESOURCES

Where to look?

- NCI Library – guides available on the [portal](#)
 - Books/Ebooks
 - Journals
- Online
 - Google
 - [Google Scholar](#)
 - [Google Books](#)
 - Wikipedia





Excellent starting point

BUT...created by members of the public

SO...this can happen

(images via HuffingtonPost.com)

Bernie Madoff...stockbroker and financier convicted of fraud

Personal life

Bernie Madoff is a very clever asshole who stole shitloads of money to better himself and his family which better land his ass in jail. Either way, he is going to hell. Madoff was born to [Ralph and Sylvia Madoff](#). His father was the son of Polish-Jewish immigrants and his mother, the child of Romanian and Austrian immigrants.^[18] They practiced [Judaism](#) and raised their son in [Laurelton, Queens](#).^[19] Ralph Madoff was a plumber before becoming a stockbroker.^[20]



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

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Communism

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

== Communism rules Capitalism Drools ==

Cats in ancient Egypt

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Cats (*Felis silvestris catus*), known in ancient Egypt as the *miw*, played a large role in ancient Egyptian society. Beginning as a wild, untamed species, they were useful for keeping down vermin populations in the Egyptians' crops and harvests; through exposure to humans, the cat population became domesticated over time and learned to coexist with the human population. The people inhabiting the area which would later become unified and known as Upper and Lower Egypt had a religion centering around the worship of animals, of which the cat became one.

Originally praised for its aid to humans in controlling vermin and its ability to fight and kill snakes (such as cobras), the domesticated cat slowly became a symbol of grace and poise. The goddess Ma'at, the deification of justice and execution, was a fierce lion-headed goddess. The cat goddess Bast (known as *Bastet*) eventually replaced the cult of Ma'at, and Bast's image softened over time and she became the deity representing protection, fertility, and motherhood.

As a result of the discovery of cat mummies in the town of Beni Hasan, Egypt, it is believed that cats were domesticated in Egypt around 4000 BC. As a result of the discovery of cat mummies in the town of Beni Hasan, Egypt, it is believed that cats were domesticated in Egypt around 4000 BC.

AVRIL LAVIGNE ROKZ MY SOCKZ!

cats and kittens. This discovery outside the town of Beni Hasan contained around eighty thousand cat mummies, dating back to 1000-2000 BC.

Contents [hide]

- 1 Cats in everyday life in Ancient Egypt
- 2 Cats in Egyptian mythology
- 3 Bubastis and the Cult of the Cat
- 4 Funerary traditions
- 5 Cats in other religions
- 6 The decline of cat-worship
- 7 References
- 8 See also

Cats in everyday life in Ancient Egypt

Feral cats, or "wild cats", naturally preyed upon the rats and other vermin that would otherwise eat from the royal granaries. They earned their place

Batman

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is an old revision of this page, as edited by Guitar Godd23 (talk | contribs) at 20:55, 14 June 2007. It may differ significantly from the current revision.

(diff) ← Previous revision | Current revision (diff) | Newer revision → (diff)

DUN NUH NUH NUH NUH NUH DUH NUH NUH NUH NUH NUH
BATMAN! DUN NUH NUH NUH NUH NUH DUH NUH NUH NUH
NUH NUH BATMAN! DUN NUH NUH NUH NUH DUH NUH
NUH NUH NUH NUH BATMAN! DUN NUH NUH NUH NUH
DUH NUH NUH NUH NUH BATMAN! BATMAN! BATMAN!
BATMAN! DUN NUH NUH NUH NUH DUH NUH NUH NUH
NUH NUH **BATMAN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

How to Look?

- Identify **keywords** or **search terms** – a natural language search won't find your answer
e.g. *“Is there a link between violence in the media and crime?”*

What keywords would you suggest?

e.g. inheritance

- Google

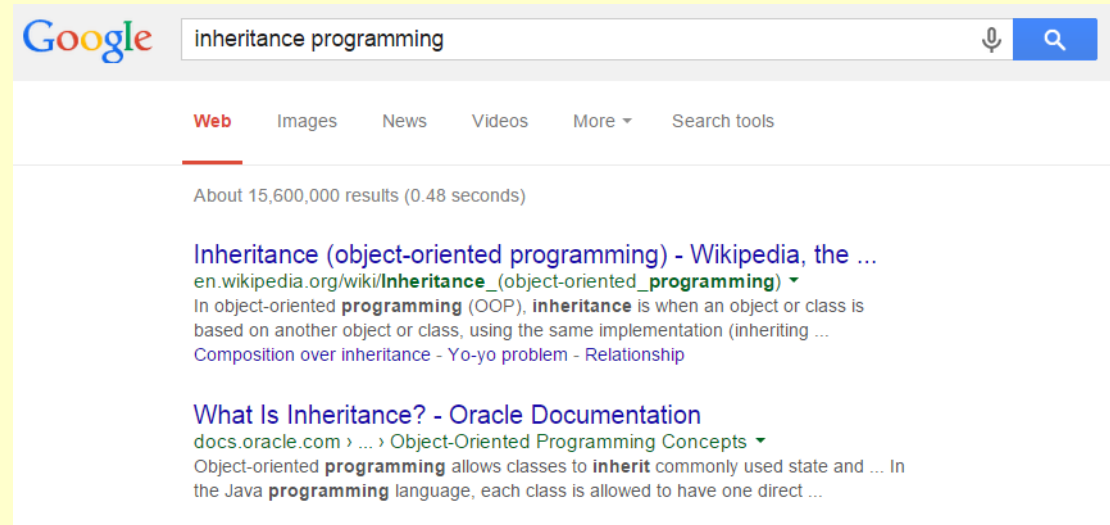
A screenshot of the Google search engine interface. The search bar at the top contains the word "inheritance". Below the search bar, there are tabs for "Web", "Images", "News", "Books", "Videos", "More", and "Search tools". The "Web" tab is selected. Below the tabs, it says "About 13,700,000 results (0.39 seconds)". There is a cookie notice: "Cookies help us deliver our services. By using our services, you agree to our use of cookies." with "OK" and "Learn more" buttons. The search results list three items: 1. "Inheritance Tax - Revenue Commissioners" with a link to "www.revenue.ie" and a description: "Inheritance Tax is a tax which can arise where a beneficiary receives an inheritance as a result of someone dying." 2. "Inheritance (object-oriented programming) - Wikipedia, the free ..." with a link to "en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inheritance_(object-oriented_programming)" and a description: "In object-oriented programming (OOP), inheritance is when an object or class is based on another object or class, using the same implementation; it is a ...". 3. "Inheritance - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia" with a link to "en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inheritance" and a description: "Inheritance is the practice of passing on property, titles, debts, rights and obligations upon the death of an individual. It has long played an important role in ...".

- Google Scholar

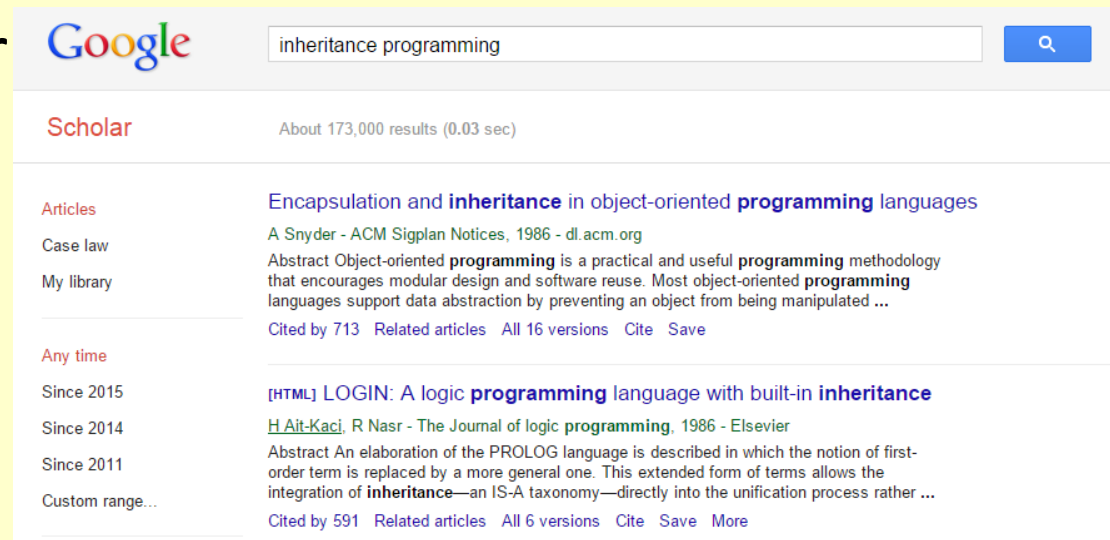
A screenshot of the Google Scholar search engine interface. The search bar at the top contains the word "inheritance". Below the search bar, it says "About 1,560,000 results (0.03 sec)". There is a "My Citations" button. The search results are listed in a table-like format. The first result is "[book] Mendelian Inheritance in Man" by VA McKusick - 1978 - ncbi.nlm.nih.gov, with a "[PDF] from nih.gov" link. The second result is "Ribosomal DNA spacer-length polymorphisms in barley: Mendelian inheritance, chromosomal location, and population dynamics" by MA Saghai-Maroo, KM Soliman... - Proceedings of the ..., 1984 - National Acad Sciences, with a "[PDF] from pnas.org" link. The third result is "[book] The growth of biological thought: diversity, evolution and inheritance" by E Mayr - 1982 - books.google.com, with a "[PDF] from harvard.ac.kr" link. On the left side, there are filters for "Articles", "Case law", "My library", "Any time", "Sort by relevance", "Sort by date", and checkboxes for "include patents" and "include citations".

e.g. inheritance & programming

- Google



- Google Scholar



Boolean Search Terms

Quotation Marks

- Requires words be searched as a phrase, in the exact order you type them
- E.g. “inheritance in computer programming”

OR

- Allows more than one search term – will return sites that contain any of the words. Normally used as part of a more detailed search..
 - E.g. inheritance java OR ruby

AND

- Will only return searches containing both words – the words you connected with AND, the fewer results you will get as it only returns sites that contain both words
- This isn't actually required for Google – it will assume AND between all words – see <https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/2466433?hl=en> for more

(3) PROCESSING INFORMATION

Critically Assess the Information

Ask yourself some questions.....

Is the information
relevant?

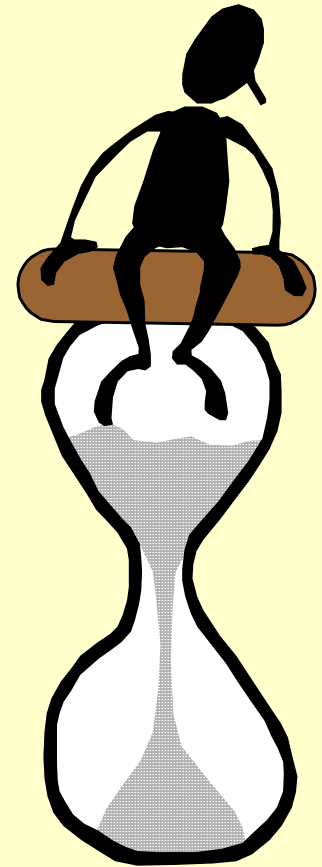
Is the information
accurate?

What point of view
is the information
from?

Is this information
likely to be fair and
representative?

Patience

- Avoid assuming that the first website you find is the best
- Keep looking, and ensure that any information you find is supported by a number of sources



Evaluating Websites

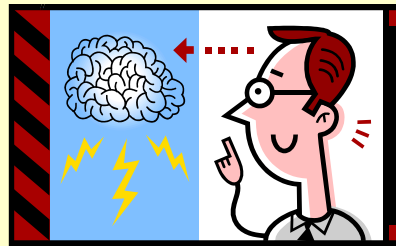


Some words of advice

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ylp9nJpGak4>

Making Notes

- Record as you go!



(4) COMMUNICATING INFORMATION

Consider...

- Requirements of the assignment
- Evaluation procedures
- Time – deadlines
- Format – visuals, oral, written, electronic or a combination
- Software tools
- Organisation and presentation
- Demonstrating evidence of knowledge of topic based on solid research and personal reflection
- **NB – remember your audience!**

Questions??

