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Finding information for your project

planning, searching
& referencing



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Why engage with the literature?

- Get an overview of the 'state of the art' - What do we know?
- Provide background/context for your own work
- Identify, compare and evaluate key evidence, theories & approaches
- Identify questions and issues that have not yet been answered (these may be addressed in your project)



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Formats of information



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Formats discussion

To get you thinking about the different formats of information for the next 5 mins:

- Talk to your neighbour
- Tell them which project title you've chosen
- Tell them where you're planning to search and discuss some alternatives



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Scenario 1

Last week a newspaper published an item about a new product that's been invented. You are asked to find out reaction to the press release. Where would you look?

Answer - social media e.g. Facebook/Twitter, industry blog, recent newspaper or industry magazine



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You need to find some key words on a topic which you can then use to search for more information. It's not a topic you are familiar with. Where would you look?

A word cloud on a purple background with the word "SEARCH" as the central, largest element. Other prominent words include "ANALYSIS", "OPTIMIZATION", "DEVELOPMENT", "STATISTICS", "REVIEW", "ENGINE", "RANKING", "POPULARITY", "INFORMATION", "TECHNIQUE", "ONLINE", "WEBPAGE", "EXPERIMENT", "KEYWORD", "RESULTS", "STANDARDS", "ENGINE REVIEW", "CORE", "DEVELOPMENT", "PROBE", "SUBMISSION", "MARKET", "PAGE OFF REPORT", "CALCULATION", "GUARANTEED", "ENGINE RANKING", "POLICIES FOLLOW", and "ARGUMENT". The words are arranged in various orientations and sizes, creating a dynamic visual composition.

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Scenario 3

You need to find some current research on a topic and your lecturer suggests looking at journal articles. Where would you look?

Answer - a journal,
StarPlus, a database



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An introduction to a topic	➡	Textbook, lecture notes
The latest research	➡	Academic journal, conference paper, subject search engine (database)
An opinion piece	➡	Newspaper, blog, industry magazine
A technical publication or a standard	➡	Specialist database - British Standards Online (BSOL)
An official report	➡	Government website, professional publication



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Planning your search strategy



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“Does the adoption of smart devices raise issues of reliability and security...”

What are you being asked to research or write about?

Identify the key words or phrases and concepts in your assignment title or research question.



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Try to build up your list of keywords

<u>smart devices</u>	<u>reliability</u>	<u>security</u>
connected devices	reliable	trust
Internet of Things	trustworthy	risk
IoT	safety	threat
smart city/ies		privacy



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“phrase searching”

Use quotation marks to search for examples of where two or more words appear together as a phrase e.g. “smart device”

Search tips can vary in each database so always check the **help** pages.





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Searching & evaluating your results

Journal article -
published results of
research by scholars
or professionals who
are experts in their
field

**Specialist
publications**
- standards,
technical
reports,
patents

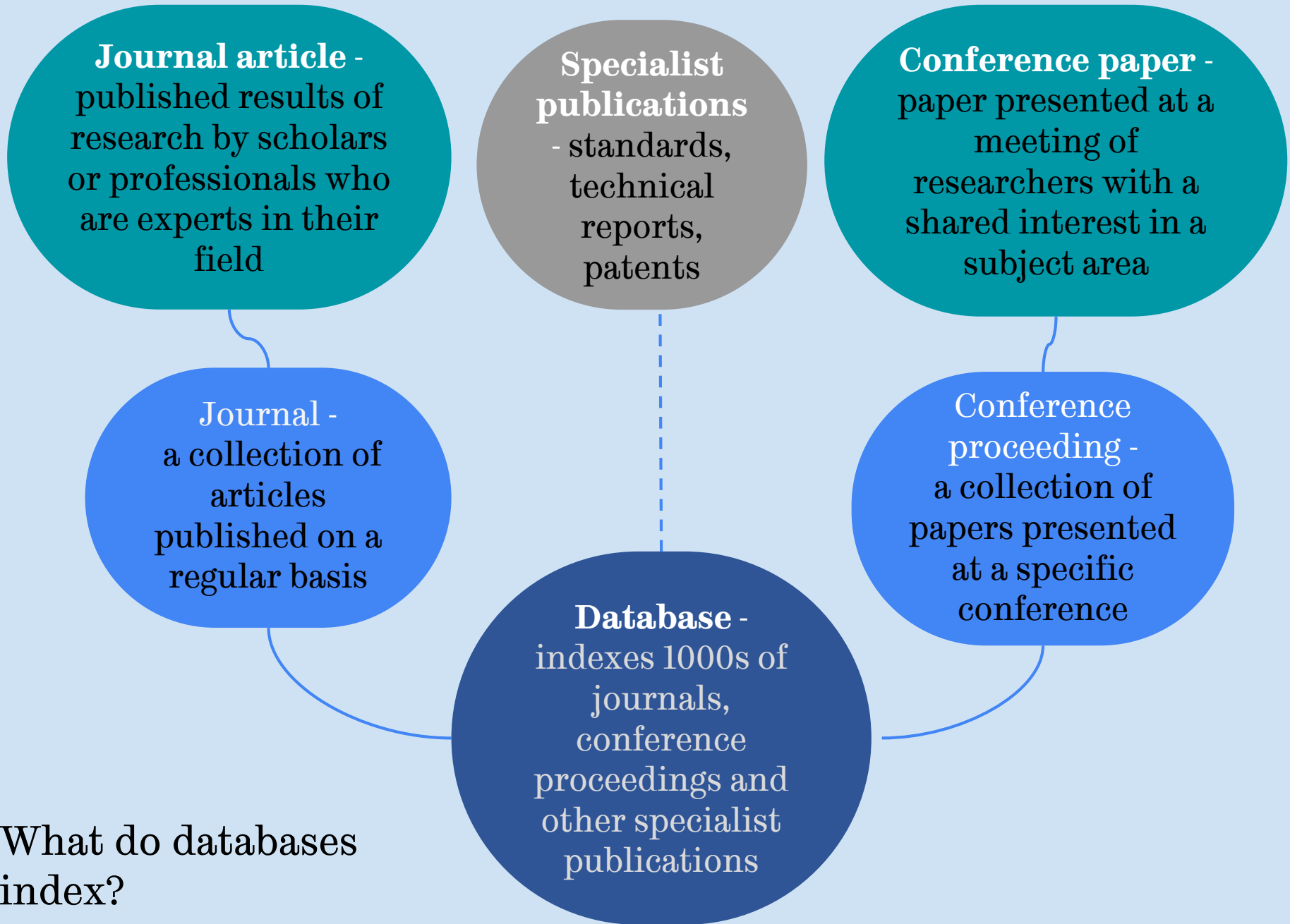
Conference paper -
paper presented at a
meeting of
researchers with a
shared interest in a
subject area

Journal -
a collection of
articles
published on a
regular basis

**Conference
proceeding** -
a collection of
papers presented
at a specific
conference

Database -
indexes 1000s of
journals,
conference
proceedings and
other specialist
publications

What do databases
index?





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StarPlus

StarPlus is a good
starting point for your
research

To access StarPlus -

Log into MUSE
Click My services
Click StarPlus –
University Library
Discovery



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StarPlus
University Library discovery

Library
Page

Enter search terms

All items

anywhere in the record

Global No.1 Business Data Platform

Access to insights and facts across 600
industries and 50+ countries

[Find out more](#) →

← **NSS Survey**



Resource
Lists



Library Subject
Guides



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Scopus / Web of Science

Multidisciplinary
databases

Combine search terms

Use the Find it links to
check if full text is
available

Scopus

Document search

Documents

Authors

Affiliations

Search

E.g., "heart attack" AND stress

AND



Search

> Limit



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IEEE Xplore

A database that covers lots of engineering topics including computing, robotics, control systems, signal processing and communication.

All articles are available in full text.

IEEE Xplore®
Digital Library



Browse ▾

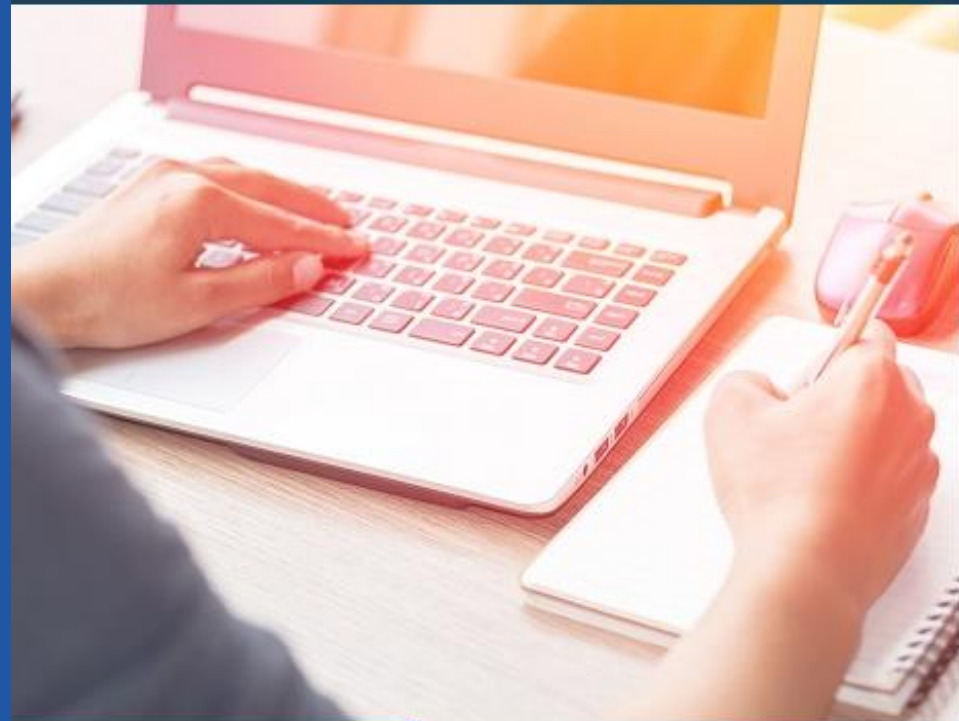
My Settings ▾

Get Help

Search

All ▾

Enter keywords or phrases (Note: Searches



Journals &
Magazines

Conferences



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ACM Digital Library

A database that
includes:

ejournals
magazines
ebooks
conference papers

published by the
Association for
Computing Machinery

ACM  DIGITAL
LIBRARY

Search





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Lecture Notes in Computer Science


Search conference
proceedings and
research monographs

 Springer Link

Search

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Home • Books A - Z • Journals A - Z • Videos • Librarians


 Include Preview-Only content ☒

Refine Your Search

Content Type

Book 

Conference Proceedings 10,337

Discipline 


Computer Science 10,852

Mathematics 156

Engineering 88

Popular Science 85

Life Sciences 51

Subdiscipline 

Artificial Intelligence (incl. Robotics) 4,714

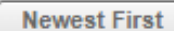
Computer Communication Networks 3,466

Information Systems Applications (incl. Internet) 3,433

11,353 Result(s) within



You are in
Lecture
STOP search

Sort By 

Book and Conference Proceedings

Learning and Intelligent

12th International Conference

Papers

Roberto Battiti, Mauro Brunato

Book and Conference Proceedings

Transactions on Computational

Ngoc Thanh Nguyen, Ryszard



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Subject guide for Computer Science

Lists key databases
and resources that
may be useful for
your literature
review.

Computer Science: Welcome

Subject guide for Computer Science provided by the University of Sheffield

Welcome

Discovering

Understanding

Questions

Welcome to the Library

Your Liaison Librarian is Emily



Emily Stock

Liaison Librarian

e.stock@sheffield.ac.uk

Welcome to the library

10 Top Tips - U



It is important to evaluate any
information that you find





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- Relevance & scope - does the information cover your project topic areas?
- Currency - when was the information originally published? Are the ideas still relevant? Has the author updated their ideas since it was published?
- Authority – Who is the author / publisher? Has the source been peer reviewed? Do other authors refer to this work?
- Purpose – Why does the information exist? Is it trying to sell you something? Persuade you or give you an opinion?



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Wikipedia

Wikipedia is useful for finding an introduction to a topic or keywords but it should only be a starting point.

You should **avoid** citing Wikipedia in your work. Follow the references given to verify statements. **Always be critical!**

Smart device

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



This article may **require cleanup** to meet Wikipedia's quality standards. Please see [this template message](#).

A **smart device** is an electronic device, generally connected to other devices or networks via different wires. Examples are [smartphones](#), [phablets](#) and [tablets](#), [smartwatches](#), [smart bands](#) and [smart key chains](#). The term can also refer to [smart appliances](#). Smart devices can be designed to support a variety of form factors, a range of properties pertaining to ubiquity.

Contents [\[hide\]](#)

- 1 Form factors
- 2 Characteristics
- 3 Ubiquitous Computing Properties
- 4 Environments
- 5 Information Appliances versus Smart Devices
- 6 See also
- 7 References
- 8 External links

Form factors [\[edit \]](#)

In 1991 [Mark Weiser](#) proposed three basic forms for ubiquitous system devices: tabs, pads and boards.^[1]

- *Tabs*: accompanied or wearable centimetre sized devices, e.g., [smartphones](#), [smart cards](#)
- *Pads*: hand-held decimetre-sized devices, e.g., laptops
- *Boards*: meter sized interactive display devices, e.g., horizontal [surface computers](#) and vertical [smart boards](#)



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Referencing - be organised



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Although
referencing can
seem like a
daunting task
it's an important
part of academic
writing!





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It can help you to...

- provide evidence - back up your ideas and demonstrate that you've read widely around a subject
- give credit - acknowledge the work of others and give enough information for the sources you have read to be tracked down
- avoid plagiarism - distinguish between your ideas and those of other people



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Referencing is a two part process

When you include a piece of information in your work you need to acknowledge where it has come from with a citation e.g.

Bryman [1] notes that...

You will then include a full reference at the end of your assignment e.g.

[1] A. Bryman, *Social Research Methods*, 4th ed. Oxford, UK: Oxford Univ. Press, 2012.



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Referencing tips

- Keep a record of all the books, journal articles, websites you have consulted as you will need to include these details in your work
- When making notes make sure you distinguish between your own thoughts and those of other people
- Don't copy/paste text into your work. When referring to something you read put it into your own words and cite where you found the information (paraphrase)



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Be consistent - whatever style you choose stick to it and be consistent

Be organised - keep bibliographic details as you make notes. Write down page numbers!

Make use of the latex template you have been given in the Background report template.



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Further support



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The University Library –

Help with
searching,
referencing
and evaluating
information

[https://www.
sheffield.ac.uk
/library/study](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/study)

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Discovering.

Discovering is the literacy which enables learners to develop search strategies and utilise a broad range of generic and discipline specific resource discovery tools.

[Online Tutorials](#)

[Workshops](#)



Understanding.

Understanding is the literacy which enables learners to find meaning and apply context.

[Online Tutorials](#)

[Workshops](#)



Questioning.

Questioning is the literacy which enables learners to analyse, evaluate, interpret and think critically about information.

[Online Tutorials](#)



Referencing.

Referencing is the literacy which enables learners to acknowledge the work of others, building on their own analysis of existing knowledge.



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[Book an appointment](#)

Your librarians

If you would like more help after today please
contact us:

Emily Herron – e.herron@sheffield.ac.uk

Helen Moore - h.moore@sheffield.ac.uk

You can also make an appointment -

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/liaison/eng>