Supporting Flexible Learning - Example

- Non-synchronous, structured learning activity.
- Produced as a module suitable for embedding into Canvas course.

Topic: Finding Academic Information for Dissertations

Stage: 3

Duration: 120 minutes

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- describe the scope of their topic using relevant keywords
- use synonyms for key search terms to expand search results
- apply Boolean searching (Combining keywords with AND/OR/NOT)
- perform advanced searching techniques in Library Search
- create a search plan highlighting the range of resource types they will use in their research
- construct and proofread references for relevant information types
- apply referencing principles in order to avoid plagiarism and the unethical use of information

Structure

This Canvas module was designed to support Education students in completing a literature review for their dissertation, it covers creating a search strategy, finding information, referencing and plagiarism.

WATCH: Introductory video (2 minutes)

- Video introduces the Social Science Liaison Team and provides an overview of the session.

Topic 1: Planning your search **(25 minutes)**

READ: Overview of Literature Searching (5 minutes)

- Introduces the idea of a search strategy and discusses the steps involved.
- Explains the importance of having a defined search question and models breaking the question down into key concepts using question prompts and providing an example.

WATCH: Creating a Search Strategy (4 minutes)

- Video covers the process you need to go through to create a search strategy.

READ: Thinking about your search plan (3 minutes)

- Uses concepts from the example search question to demonstrate how to develop a list of targeted keywords and synonyms.
- Provides tips on where to look for keywords.

READ: Advanced searching (3 minutes)

- Highlights used tips and advanced searching techniques students can use with their keywords when searching.
- Signposts to the Finding Information Guide for further help.

CREATE: Search Plan (10 minutes)

- Students use the Library's Search Planner tool to begin to map out their search strategy by identifying keywords and synonyms for their topic. Students will return to their plan at the end of different topics to add further details.

Topic 2: Finding different types of information **(5 minutes)**

EXPLORE: Finding Information Guide (5 minutes)

- Students directed to read Types of Information and Performing a Search sections of the skills guide.
- Provides question prompts to encourage students to think about relevant information types for their topic.

Topic 3: Journal articles and academic literature **(27 minutes)**

WATCH: Library Search: Finding eBooks (2 minutes)

- Video demonstrates how to effectively search for eBooks on Library Search.

WATCH: Library Search: Finding eJournal Articles (3 minutes)

- Video demonstrates how to effectively search for online journal articles on Library Search.

READ: Library Search (2 minutes)

- Shares summary of useful tips for using Library Search effectively.

READ: Scopus (2 minutes)

- Introduces Scopus explaining its features and the benefits of using it in research.

WATCH: Scopus (6 minutes)

- **Video 1 – Scopus: How to conduct a basic search**
- **Video 2 – Scopus: How to expand your search**
- Videos introduce basic searching and following citations with the 'Cited By' feature.

READ: Proquest Social Sciences Premium Collection (2 minutes)

- Introduces this subject specific resource, explaining its features and the benefits of using it in research.

WATCH: [Proquest Social Sciences Premium Collection](#) (5 minutes)

- Video introduces the collection and demonstrates how to search and use its features effectively.

WATCH: [Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts](#) (5 minutes)

- Video introduces a database within the Social Sciences Premium Collection, modelling how to use the thesaurus function to search controlled vocabulary.

Topic 4: News sources **(39 minutes)**

READ: News resources available from the Library (2 minutes)

- Explores the benefits of newspapers as a resource.
- Highlights the newspaper collections available in the Library.
- Signposts to the Library's [Newspaper Resource Guide](#).

WATCH: [Lexis](#) (3 minutes)

- Video introduces the database Lexis, which provides access to all UK national and regional newspaper titles, with coverage generally dating from 1990s to present day.

WATCH: [Historic Newspaper Articles](#) (4 minutes)

- Video demonstrates where to find historic newspapers.

READ: Television and radio news (2 minutes)

- Provides an overview of the range of resources available and how to access them.

WATCH: Box of Broadcasts (3 minutes)

- Videos introduce Box of Broadcast (BoB) as a useful news resource and demonstrate how to search it and use key features.
- Video 1 – [How to search BoB](#)
- Video 2 – [How to create clips on BoB](#)

READ: Nexis (2 minutes)

- Introduces Nexis as a resource for international news, highlighting the archives it includes and how to access them.

WATCH: [Nexus](#) (8 minutes)

- Video describes how to create effective searches for international news on Nexus.

READ: Statista (2 minutes)

- Introduces Statista and describes how it can be useful for researchers.

WATCH: [Statista](#) (3 minutes)

- Video models how to conduct effective searchers in Statista.

CREATE: Search Plan (10 minutes)

- Students use the Library's Search Planner tool to map out their search strategy by selecting a range of resources for their research.

Topic 5; Managing information, referencing and plagiarism **(22 minutes)**

READ: Why referencing is important (3 minutes)

- Highlights the importance of referencing and when referencing is needed.
- Introduces Cite Them Right as a useful referencing tool.
- Provides best practice advice.

WATCH: What is referencing? (4 minutes)

- Video explains what is referencing and why it is important.

WATCH: How to reference (4 minutes)

- Video gives an overview of how to reference, including the placement of citations.

READ: Understanding and avoiding plagiarism (2 minutes)

- Defines plagiarism.
- Signposts to the Cite Them Right plagiarism resources, including a referencing and plagiarism tutorial.

WATCH: Understanding Plagiarism (4 minutes)

- Video explains plagiarism and models how to avoid it.

CREATE: Search Plan (5 minutes)

- Students use the Library's Search Planner tool to map out their search strategy by deciding how they will manage their references and the tools they'll use to help them.

Topic 6: Getting help from the Library **(2 minutes)**

READ: Help with resources and academic study skills (2 minutes)

- Provides links to range of support guides and support service available to students, including the Library's Dissertations and Research Projects Guide, the Writing Development Centre and Academic Skills Kit (ASK).

Assessment opportunities

- Completed Search Plans can be submitted to the Liaison team for formative feedback.
- Students could share their search strategies in a group discussion for peer feedback.
- Search strategies could be added as an appendix to any submitted coursework to show skills development.