Information Sources

Information Literacy

What is Information Literacy?

"Information literacy is knowing **when** and **why** you need information, **where** to find it, and **how** to **evaluate**, **use** and **communicate** it in an ethical manner."

(CILIP, The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, UK)

What you will learn

Information can be found in all kinds of places...books, news media, journals, the web.

Knowing which one to use will depend on what kind of information you need.

This session will help you identify what information sources you should use and where you can find them.

Primary Sources

Primary sources are original artefacts or documents. They offer contemporary accounts from participants or people directly involved in an event (first-hand accounts)

- Interviews
- Diaries
- Letters
- Original works of art
- Photographs

Secondary Sources

Secondary sources describe and interpret primary sources. They are written or produced after the fact.

- News media
- Newspapers
- Journals / magazines
- Books
- Dictionaries, encyclopaedias, atlases
- Theses

Reference Books

A good start

Definitions

Summaries

Encyclopaedias

Dictionaries

Almanacs

Directories

Atlases

Books / Ebooks

Good source. Comprehensive.

Thorough treatment of a topic.

Published sometime after research, so may not be current.

Good source?   Check publication date.   Look for references.

Journals

A journal is an academic magazine published on a regular basis.
It contains articles written by experts in a particular field of study.

Up-to-date

Latest research

Peer-reviewed, written by experts

Spot the difference

Scholarly journal

- For scholars, researchers
- Written by experts
- Long, focused articles
- Peer-reviewed
- Plain, no advertisements

Magazine

- For general public
- Written by journalists
- Short, general articles
- Not peer-reviewed
- Colourful, advertisements

Websites

Everything and anything!

But beware... remember to evaluate

The web is great for...

- Company information
- Government info
- Organisations related to your subject
- News

Library databases

Library databases are online collections of documents on various subjects

- Journal articles
- Newspaper articles
- Standards
- eBooks
- Other documents

Evaluating sources

Finding information

Where do I find things?

Books	• Library website
eBooks	• Library website • Google books / Google Scholar
Journal articles	• Library website • Google Scholar
Websites	• Internet
Databases	• Library website

How to find things

Search the library website

Use the library website to search for what you want

- When you find a book on the website you'll see its **shelf number**, this will help you find it in the library.

- For online items, like eBooks, simply click on the link to read them online or download

Need more help?

Use LibGuides

Online guides, tailored to your course, to help you find the best sources for books, eBooks, journal articles, databases and websites.
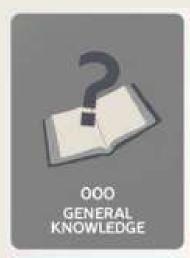
Get in Touch
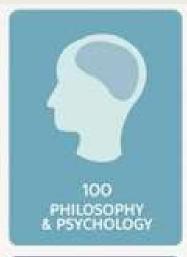
Face-to-face, call, email, Live Chat.

Find a book on the shelves

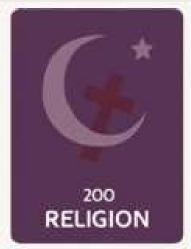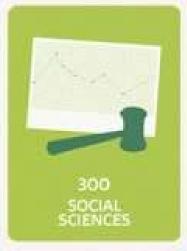- Books in ATU Library are grouped together by subject.

- We use a number system, called Dewey Decimal Classification, to arrange books by subject.

Shelf numbers by subject

000 GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

100 PHILOSOPHY & PSYCHOLOGY

200 RELIGION

300 SOCIAL SCIENCES

400 LANGUAGES

500 SCIENCE

600 TECHNOLOGY

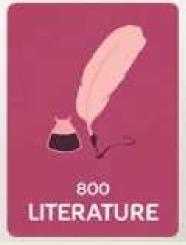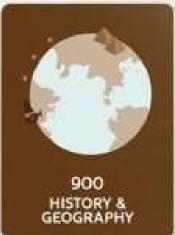700 ARTS & RECREATION

800 LITERATURE

900 HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Why so many numbers?

A GMIT shelf number always has three digits.

It may have a decimal point followed by more digits *e.g.* 746.44

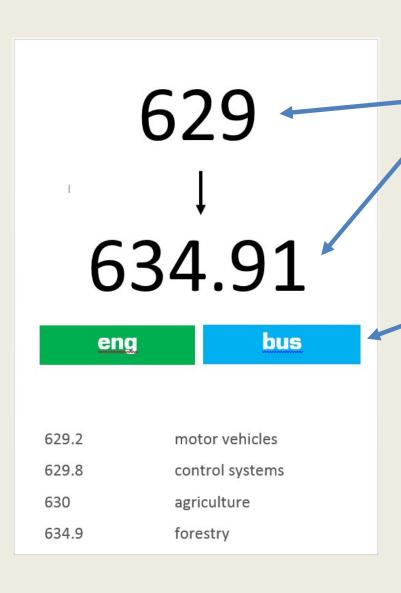The longer a shelf number is the more specific the subject matter is. *For example:*

746	Textiles
746.4	Needlework and handwork
746.44	Embroidery

Shelf signs

629

↓

634.91

| eng | bus |

629.2   motor vehicles

629.8   control systems

630   agriculture

634.9   forestry

- The start and end number of each shelf

- Colour coding
  e.g. Blue for Business

- Remember books are shelved in numeric order!

Need More Help…

… Just Ask: Staff are here to help!