

Are you beginning a research project? Here's what you need to know

There are endless amounts of information online, and thus, it is important to know where to access resources for your academic research that are reliable, accurate, objective and current.

The purpose of this guide is to point you in the right direction and introduce some invaluable tips and resources to get the most out of your online research.

What are RELIABLE sources?

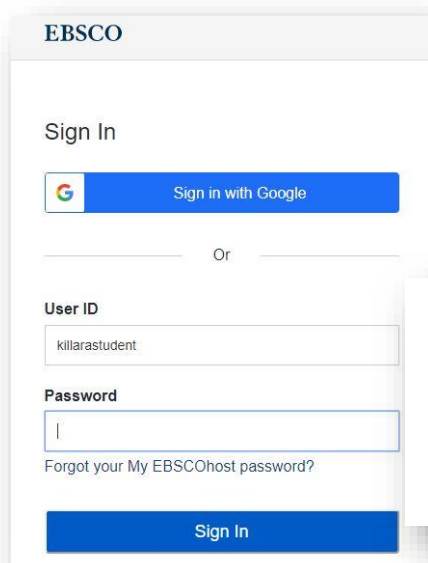
Reliable or academic sources may include:

- Professional journals / articles from our online databases
- Edited books
- Government websites / reports
- Professional association websites
- Historical society websites
- University websites/articles
- Newspapers

Unreliable or non-academic sources may include:

- Wikipedia (although utilising the references at the bottom of Wikipedia pages can be useful)
- Popular magazines
- Blogs
- YouTube channels

Online Search Tools

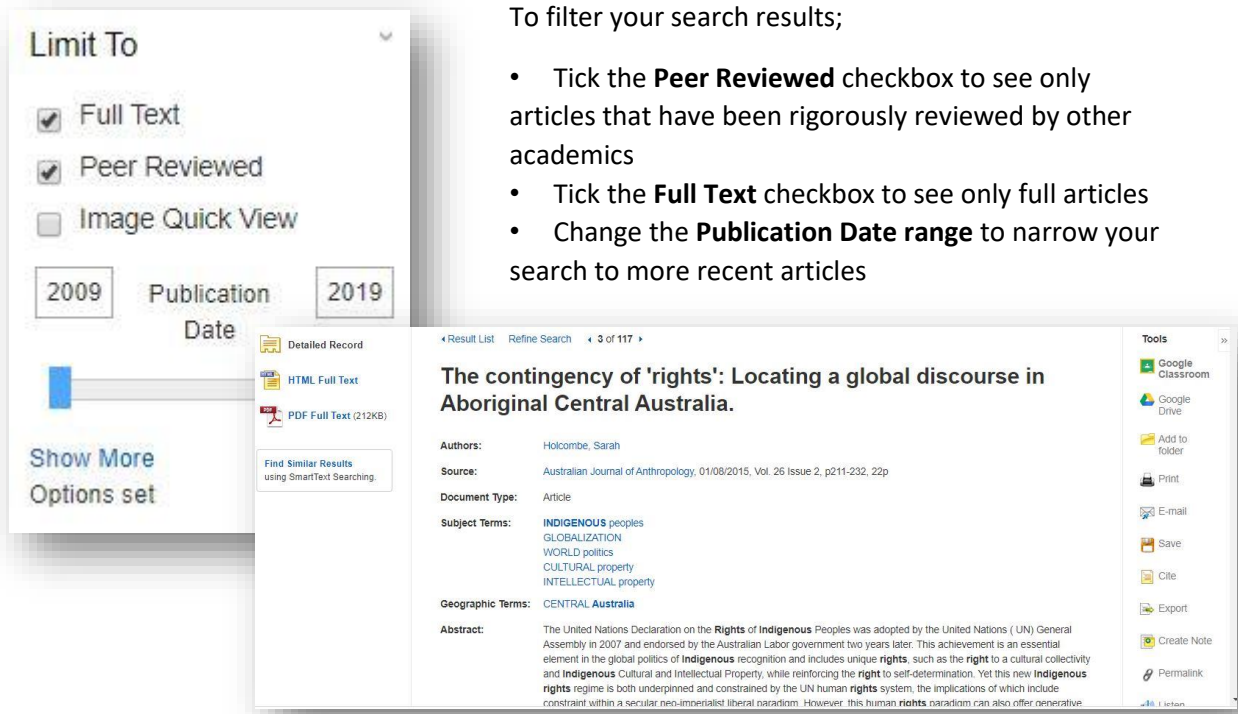


EBSCOhost – an online database of academic articles, journals, images and news

- Go to: <http://search.ebscohost.com>
- Username: *ask library staff for username*
- Password: *ask library staff for password*



- Once you are logged in, enter your search words (taken from your research question)
- You can then start to drill down into your results by filtering the search results



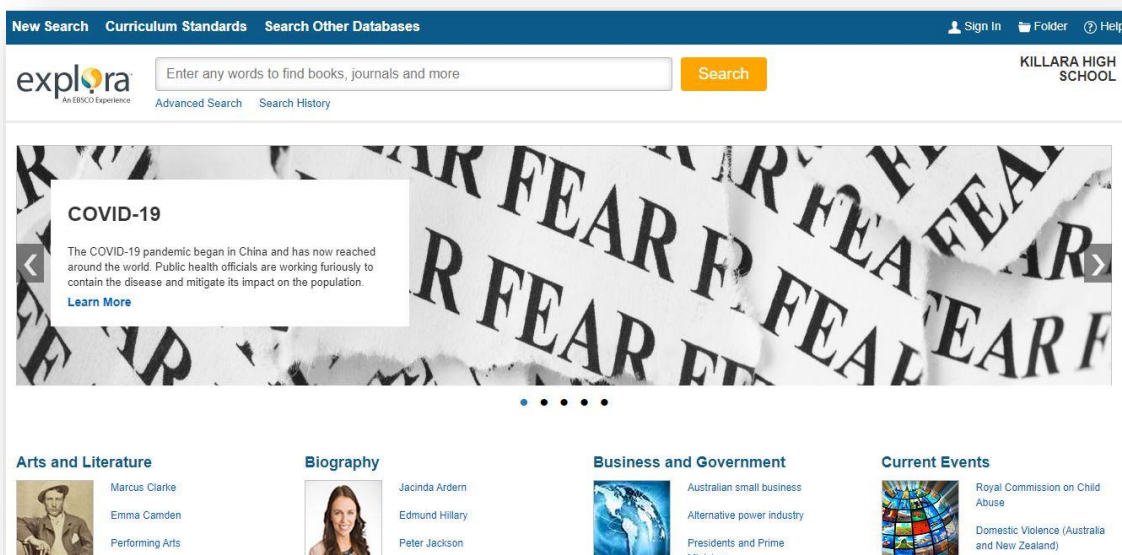
The screenshot shows a search interface with a 'Limit To' sidebar on the left. The sidebar has checkboxes for 'Full Text' (checked), 'Peer Reviewed' (checked), and 'Image Quick View' (unchecked). Below these are input boxes for '2009' and '2019' under the heading 'Publication Date'. A 'Show More Options set' button is at the bottom of the sidebar. The main content area shows a 'Detailed Record' for an article. The article title is 'The contingency of 'rights': Locating a global discourse in Aboriginal Central Australia.' The author is Sarah Holcombe. The source is 'Australian Journal of Anthropology, 01/08/2015, Vol. 26 Issue 2, p211-232, 22p'. The document type is 'Article'. Subject terms include 'INDIGENOUS peoples', 'GLOBALIZATION', 'WORLD politics', 'CULTURAL property', and 'INTELLECTUAL property'. Geographic terms are 'CENTRAL Australia'. The abstract discusses the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its implications in Australia.

To filter your search results;

- Tick the **Peer Reviewed** checkbox to see only articles that have been rigorously reviewed by other academics
- Tick the **Full Text** checkbox to see only full articles
- Change the **Publication Date range** to narrow your search to more recent articles

- Click on an article in the results to open the file.
- You can then save, share or print articles using the options on the ‘**Tools**’ menu on the right of the screen.
- You can also export the reference (citation) for the article, to add to your reference list, by using the “Cite” button in the ‘Tools’ menu, and choosing your referencing style from the list.

Explora - An easy-to-navigate academic database especially geared towards secondary school students.



The screenshot shows the Explora website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'New Search', 'Curriculum Standards', and 'Search Other Databases'. A search bar is prominently displayed with the text 'Enter any words to find books, journals and more'. Below the search bar, there is a featured article about COVID-19 with a 'Learn More' link. The main content area is divided into four columns representing different subject categories: 'Arts and Literature' (featuring Marcus Clarke, Emma Camden, and Performing Arts), 'Biography' (featuring Jacinda Ardern, Edmund Hillary, and Peter Jackson), 'Business and Government' (featuring Australian small business, Alternative power industry, and Presidents and Prime Ministers), and 'Current Events' (featuring Royal Commission on Child Abuse and Domestic Violence in Australia and New Zealand).

- Go to: [Explora Student Login Page](#) (link on Lion Library/Student Resources page)
- Username: *ask library staff for username*
- Password: *ask library staff for password*

Once you are logged in to Explora;

- Enter your search terms into the search bar or click on one of the listed categories or topics.
- If you click on one of the listed categories or topics, the first search result will be a **Topic Overview** which may be useful for your research.

To filter your search results;

- Tick the **Peer Reviewed** checkbox to see only articles that have been rigorously reviewed by other academics
- Tick the **Full Text** checkbox to see only full articles
- Change the **Publication Date range** to narrow your search to more recent articles

The screenshot shows the Explora search interface. The search bar contains the text "indigenous Australians health issues". The search results are displayed in a list format. The first result is titled "1. Policy influences affecting the food practices of Indigenous Australians since colonisation." and is from the journal "Australian Aboriginal Studies". The second result is titled "2. The importance and challenges of assessing cognition in Indigenous Australians." and is from the journal "Australasian Psychiatry". The interface includes a "Refine Results" sidebar on the left with options for "Full Text", "Peer Reviewed", and "Publication Date" (set to 2009-2019). The top right corner shows "KILLARA HIGH SCHOOL" and a "Search" button.

Google Scholar – search for academic articles through Google

- Go to [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com)
- Enter your search terms
- Look for articles with a [pdf] link in the right-hand column
- Change the date range to narrow your search to more recent articles

The screenshot shows the Google Scholar search interface. The search bar contains the text "pompeii reconstruction and conservation". The search results are displayed in a list format. The first result is titled "The global macroeconomic impacts of COVID-19: Seven scenarios" and is from the journal "Sensible Policy". The second result is titled "What will be the economic impact of COVID-19 in the US? Rough estimates of disease scenarios" and is from the journal "Corona Nepal". The interface includes a "Google Scholar" logo at the top left and a "Stand on the shoulders of giants" quote at the top right. The search results are sorted by relevance and include options for "Include patents", "Include citations", and "Create alert".

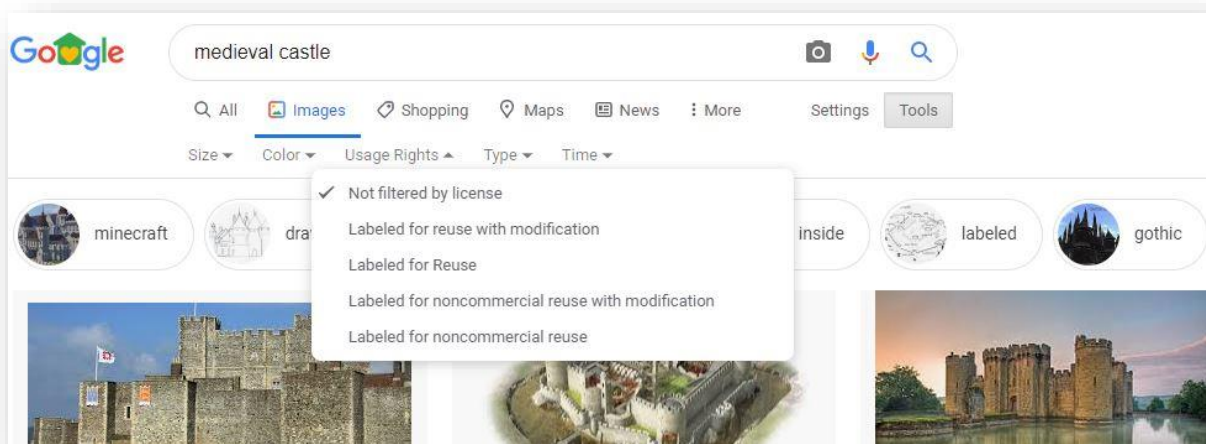
How to find License-free Images using Google

You can only use online images in your work if they are freely available and are not restricted by copyright.

To locate unrestricted images:

1. Go to '[Google Images](#)'
2. Search using keyword/s
3. Click on 'Tools'
4. Usage Rights
5. Select the option that best suits your needs

*You may need to check whether your teacher requires images to be referenced in your work



Online Search Tips

Watch this YouTube video "[How to Google like a Pro](#)" for some excellent tips on effectively targeting your online searches.



Academic Articles – a close-up look

Once you have found an academic article, read the abstract (summary) to see if it is related to your topic or focus question. If so, save it and then use the references at the end of the article to lead you to more related resources on your topic.

*The following image shows you the main parts of an academic article.

The image shows a screenshot of an academic article page from the journal *World Archaeology*, 2017, Volume 49, Number 3, pages 388-403. The article title is "Constructing a trumped-up future with the pastness of the present? Neo-relics and archaeological heritage". The authors are Janne Ikaheimo and Tiina Aikas. The abstract discusses neo-relics and constructions borrowing from ancient structures. The references list several sources related to archaeology and heritage.

Callouts in the image identify the following sections:

- Journal details** (The publication the article came from): Title, Year, Volume, Number, Page Numbers
- Publisher details**: Routledge
- Add to your folder**: Save relevant articles into one folder
- Authors**: Janne Ikaheimo and Tiina Aikas
- Summary of article**: Read the abstract to work out of the article is relevant to your topic
- References**: Scroll down to the Reference list to find related resources for your research

Referencing



Image source: <https://libguides.melbournpolytechnic.edu.au/referencingfundamentals/BasicReferencingPrinciples>

- Your teacher will tell you which referencing style to use for your assessment
- Find an online referencing guide for that style – university guides are often good
eg: Macquarie University's Referencing Guides <http://libguides.mq.edu.au/referencing>
- Be consistent (use the same referencing style throughout your assessment)
- Reference all of the sources you have used in your assessment
- Avoid plagiarism (*neglecting to acknowledge your sources*) by making a list of your sources as you use them
- Reference as you go

WHY REFERENCE?

Good quality referencing ensures that you:

Avoid plagiarism

To use the work of others without acknowledgement is plagiarism. It may carry serious penalties.

Add support to your paper

Other people's ideas provide evidence that back up the arguments you make in your assignments.

Help readers to follow-up on the points you've made

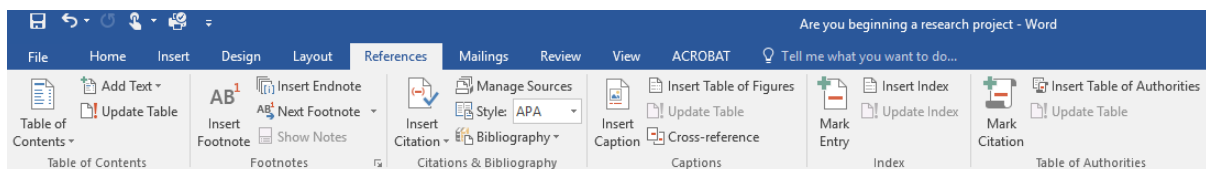
Readers of your work may wish to consult your information sources.

Display courtesy

Remember ... when you borrow something, it's always customary to acknowledge the lender

Image source: <https://libguides.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/referencingfundamentals/BasicReferencingPrinciples>

Using Microsoft Word to Reference your Work



- A huge time-saver
- You can easily insert references, footnotes and citations into your work, and create an instant Reference List (bibliography/works cited), using Microsoft Word. (NB: Microsoft Word only supports certain referencing styles)
- [Click here](#) for instructions

Academic Misconduct / Malpractice (Plagiarism, cheating & collusion)

Academic Misconduct / Malpractice may include:

- Copying or building upon ideas or quotes from a source without acknowledging the author (*plagiarism*)
- Copying another student's work and passing it off as your own (*cheating*)
- Collaborating extensively with another student on an individual task (*collusion*)

The Killara High School Assessment Policy states:

*“Students determined to have been involved in **malpractice** in relation to any assessment task, including exams, may expect to **receive a zero mark for that task.**”*

Note: Teachers at Killara High School often submit assessments using *Turnitin* (the Internet-based plagiarism detection service). Any plagiarism will be automatically picked up by the *Turnitin* service.

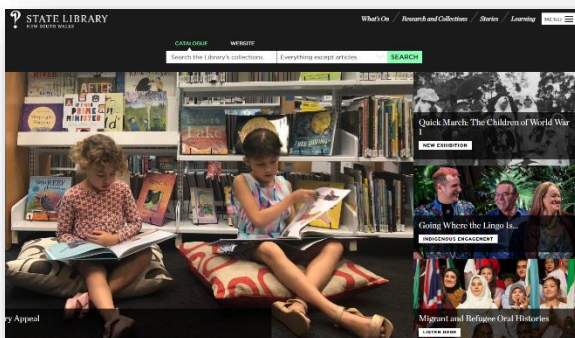
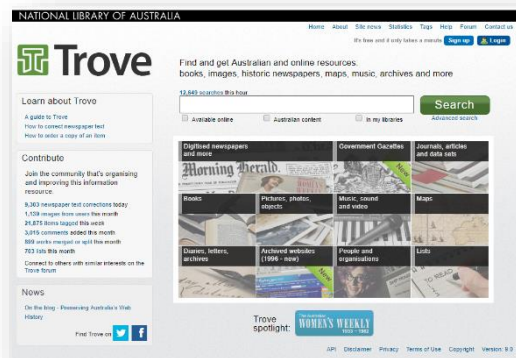
Join public libraries to access quality resources for free

You can broaden your research by using the huge variety of resources available at many libraries, rather than relying on the Killara High School collection. You can easily join all of these libraries and access all of their resources for free.

National Library of Australia - Trove

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Find and access Australian and online resources: books, images, historic newspapers, maps, music, archives and more.



State Library of NSW

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/>

The State Library of NSW has amazing research and other HSC resources on their website. Just search for [“State Library HSC Base Camp”](#) and [“State Library NSW eResources”](#)

The State Library also holds free 'HSC Help' sessions for English, History and Society & Culture twice a year.

The State Library employs specialist [Research Librarians](#) ready to help you with your research questions.

City of Sydney Library

Join online to access a huge range of electronic titles to support your research.



Your Local Library



Your local library will have a selection of HSC and other resources in print and online, and may give you access to online subscription databases for academic research.

Search for your local council library on Google:
Eg: "Ku-ring-gai Council Library or Hornsby Council Library"

For advice or help with research or referencing, please come and see the Teacher-Librarians at any time.