I need help with... getting started on my assignment
Understanding Research

• 6 Research steps
• Identifying keywords
• Using Findit
• Referencing
• Databases
• Google Scholar
Help!

- Librarians can help you identify research concepts

**Research Steps**

1. **Analyse & define the topic**
   - What are the main concepts or ideas?
   - How many sources will I need to research the topic?
Research Steps

Find background information

• What do I already know about this topic?
• Where can I find background information?
• What point do I intend to make with my paper?

Help!

• Librarians can help you find useful and relevant information to work with. Use online encyclopedias to find background information on your subject.
Research Steps

3 Develop a search strategy

• What are the key terms that describe my topic?
• What are some synonyms for those terms?
• Is my search statement too narrow or too broad?

Help!

• Librarians will be able to help you identify keywords and search terms
Boolean Operators

http://youtu.be/7tm-sDKCnO4
Research Steps

4 Retrieve & evaluate sources

• Are the books and articles I have found relevant, current and authoritative?
• Are the web sites I have found reputable and well documented?

Help!

• Librarians can help you search the catalogue, databases and the Internet for the most appropriate sources for your assignment
Research Steps

5 Review & organise info

• What are the major arguments that support and refute my research?
• Do most respected scholars support a particular viewpoint?

Help!

• Librarians and tutors will help you select the most appropriate sources that back your arguments
Research Steps

6 Cite your references

• Have I collected all the necessary publication information for each source?
• Have I checked to make sure I’m using the referencing style correctly?

Help!

• Librarians can guide you in how to properly reference according to citation styles (Chicago, APA, etc.)
Professor Wikipedia
How not to start your research!

http://youtu.be/eaADQTeZRCY
Example Essay Question

“Are we taking it too far by blaming fast food restaurants for obesity?

When is it individual responsibility and when is it appropriate to place blame?”
Example Essay Question

Indentifying the keywords

“Are we taking it too far by blaming fast food restaurants for obesity? When is it individual responsibility and when is it appropriate to place blame?”
Using Findit

Remember using Findit?

![Search results for fast food on Murdoch University Library's Findit system](image)
Using Findit
Using Findit

Search Results: Your search for "fast food restaurants and obesity blame" returned 6,558 results.

Blame obesity on electronics, fast food
by Janet Lameck
The Windsor Star, 01/27/2012, p. A-9
...The main cause of obesity in children, teens and young adults today can be linked down to one thing. No, not genetic, though I'm sure that does have something...
Newspaper Article: Full Text Online

Obesity - is food addiction to blame?
by Rogers, Peter J.
Addiction (Abingdon, England), ISSN 0965-2140. 07/2011, Volume 106, Issue 7, pp. 1213 - 1214
...Comments on Gerhardt et al. (2011) add_3371213. 1220 OBESITY - IS FOOD ADDICTION TO BLAME? Searlahard and colleagues [1] propose that certain foods... Obesity, satisfaction, Feeding Behavior - psychology, palatability, obesity
Journal Article: Full Text Online

Obesity: blame don't-care parents
by Amanda Ayya
Caterer & Hotelkeeper, ISSN 0008-7777. 09/2006, Volume 196, Issue 4440, p. 4
I'm not condoning the promotion of junk food - I spend enough time discouraging my own children from eating it - but as commercial operations, theme parks need to serve food that suits... Obesity, Hotels & restaurants, Tourist attractions, Western Europe, Short article
Journal Article: Full Text Online

Don't blame fast food for obesity. Final Edition
by Jill Holroyd
The Ottawa Citizen, ISSN 0839-3222, 04/22/2006, p. B-7
These critics have come up with a compelling story, complete with a ready-made villain -- restaurants...
Newspaper Article: Full Text Online
Using Findit
Using Findit
Using Findit

Search Results: Your search for fast food restaurants obesity blame and returned 343 results

Restaurants deny blame for obesity: FINAL HOME EDITION
by EMILY GERSEMA
Tulsa World, ISSN 0750-5959, 01/05/2003, p. A.9
In 2001, then-Surgeon General David Satcher pointed out that obesity had reached epidemic proportions in the United States...
[Newspaper Article: Full Text Online]

OBESITY EXPERT: BLAME POLICIES
by WILLIAM HATHAWAY and Courant Staff Writer
Hartford Courant, ISSN 1047-4153, 09/17/2007, p. A.1
... the director of Yale University's Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity, he believes the billions of dollars Americans spend annually on dieting are a waste. Existing... Obesity, Changes, Weight control, Advertising, campaigns, Marketing
[Newspaper Article: Full Text Online]

US shields fast-food firms from obesity cases
by Suzanne Goldenberg
The Guardian, ISSN 0261-3077, 03/12/2004, p. 16
America's fast-food industry savored a victory over consumer activists yesterday after Congress approved a "cheeseburger bill" to shield restaurant franchises and food firms from blame for making...
[Newspaper Article: Full Text Online]

Council takes aim at fast food: Restaurant fare tied to obesity
by Nick Kotsopoulos
Telegraph & Gazette, ISSN 1050-4184, 12/11/2011, p. B.2
... And if we look at the population as a whole, that's about how fast it is moving. It doesn't take much, but it's happening and that's how it's happening.
[Newspaper Article: Full Text Online]
Using Findit

[Image of a search result page from Murdoch University's Findit service, showing search results for "fast food restaurants obesity blame and" with articles on obesity and food addiction.]
What is Plagiarism?
In the Murdoch University Handbook, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism constitutes using the work of another without indicating by referencing (and by quotations marks when exact phrases or passages are borrowed) that the ideas expressed are not one’s own. (2009, p. 33)

Need more info?
http://goto.murdoch.edu.au/AvoidPlagiarism
Databases & how to use them

Librarians talk a lot about databases

They are one of our major resources. If you get on top of using these early, it’ll make your research much more productive.

Some databases are free of charge and others are subscribed to, on your behalf by the library.
Databases & how to use them

http://youtu.be/KKIbnNLCh8g
It is strongly recommended that you begin your academic research with library databases.

Murdoch University Library subscribes to thousands of journals in over 100 databases.
Google Scholar

Please note
Google Scholar indexes both scholarly and non-scholarly sites

Follow these instructions to get the most out of Google Scholar and to find articles in the databases to which Murdoch Library subscribes
Using Google Scholar

• Go to [scholar.google.com](scholar.google.com)

• Login with your Google/Gmail account

• Click on ‘Scholar preference’ at top right corner of the screen
Using Google Scholar

- Scroll down to Library Links area
  - Enter ‘Murdoch University’
  - Find Library
  - Tick the box
  - Scroll down and save preferences

This links your Google Scholar searches to articles available at Murdoch University Library.

Now you can start your search!
Using Google Scholar

Important note about Google Scholar

While Google Scholar is free and does search some of the scholarly literature, there are gaps in what it actually does index and include.

Image: Mind the Gap w/ train ashabot [Flickr]
Using Google Scholar

Important note about Google Scholar

Do not order and pay
for articles from publisher websites; ask the library for help.
Need more help?
Ask a Librarian! It’s that easy!