

What are the different types of resource I will be using?

Transcript

Books and e-books

Many books are available to use in the library or to borrow. Some publishers make their books available in electronic format, so if you are lucky, we may also have the e-book version. To access all our electronic resources, make sure you first log-in to LibrarySearch.

From time to time, a newer edition of a standard text might come out, bringing the book up to date with current research. If more than one edition is available, try to use the latest one; only use an earlier one if all copies of the later edition are already being used by other readers.

Journals and journal articles

A great way to find up-to-date information on a topic is to find a recently written journal article. Journals are like the academic equivalent of a magazine. Each journal covers a very specific subject area (examples: Ethnic and Racial Studies; Journal of Child Nursing; Police Quarterly). Journals are published regularly and frequently and each issue that comes out contains articles by different writers on a current topic or about a recent piece of research.

How can you tell the difference between an academic journal and an ordinary journal or magazine? The main thing is that each article includes a bibliography – a list of references to previous books and articles the writer has used while carrying out their own research. **Tip:** Once you find a good, relevant article, try tracking down some of the items the author has listed in their bibliography as these could be additional useful sources of information on your topic.

DVDs or online videos

The library has DVDs you can borrow that you can also use for study. These may contain video presentations or interviews by scholars or researchers or subject specialists in the field you are studying. In the Arts and Humanities, you can find many plays, movies, operas and music performances you can study. There are also databases where you can download and watch online videos to use as source material – such as Box of Broadcasts (BoB) or Kanopy.

Legislation

You may need to refer to current legislation in your subject area. As this is actual law from the UK Government, it is certainly a reliable source you can use. To locate legislation you can either use one of our subscribed databases – **Westlaw UK** or **LexisLibrary** – or go to <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/>.

Websites

Sometimes your tutor may recommend documents published directly on the Web, either on a government website or a site run by a professional body (such as the **College of Policing** or the **Royal College of Occupational Therapists**). Such resources are perfectly acceptable as they come from a reliable, professional source. However, if you find a website yourself while searching online, it's important that you evaluate this before deciding if the site is good enough to use in an assignment. (For more advice on how to do this see the separate section on **Evaluating Sources**.)