

INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES - Feb 2017

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HASS

UQ is one of the World's Best Research- Intensive Universities



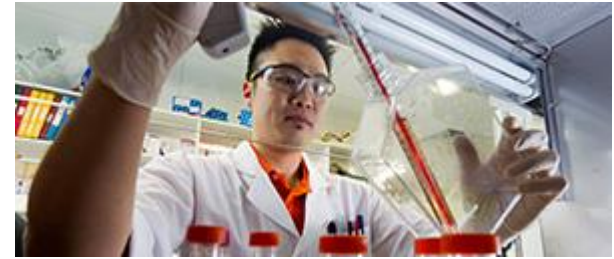
The meaning of 'research'

- Systematic investigation to establish facts
- Form of inquiry: a systematic search for knowledge
- **Answers to *why* questions ???**
and answers which makes something which once appeared puzzling seem obvious

Looking below the surface – looking for things that are not obvious



SOCIAL SCIENCE



What is the relationship with ‘hard’ (natural) science?

Similarities

- answer why questions
- explanation/prediction
- rigorous methods
- transparency

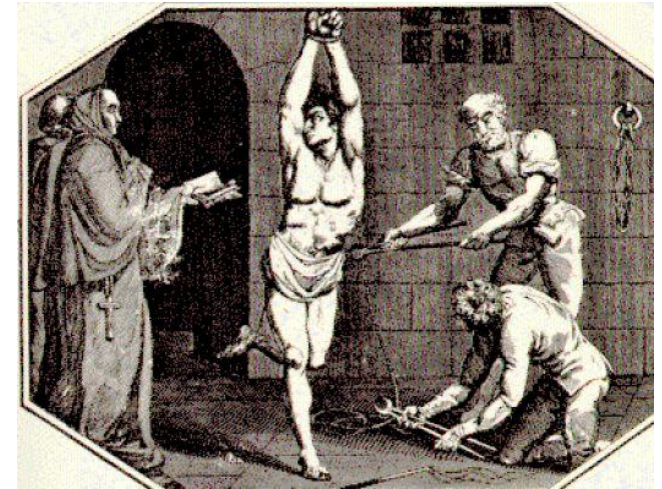
Differences

- people
- prediction
- methods of control (the role of controlled experiments)



How does torture become normal?

Scripts without a stage:
Roman comedy in the Early Italian Renaissance



Lives in limbo: An anthropology of refugee experiences in Malaysia

Un-neighbourliness: The nature, causes and outcomes of neighbour problems

Talking knowledge, doing learning: the early years

Being and becoming musical



The meaning of ‘research’ from a student’s point of view

- ‘Go and do some research’ **doesn’t** mean:
‘Find out something no one has ever discovered or thought of before’



- It **nearly always** means:
‘Find, read and analyse the best sources for what is known already’

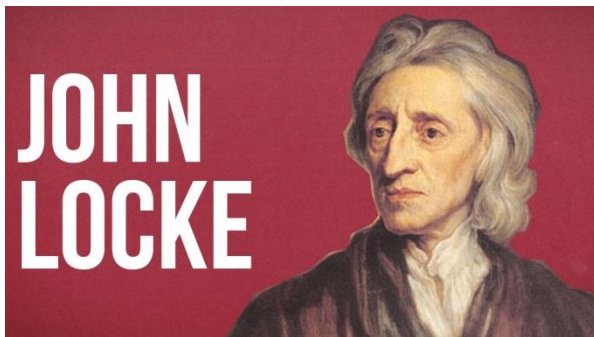


Proposing a Future Direction for US Foreign Policy.

Write a report for the Washington Post blog forum explaining which theory (realism, liberalism, Marxism or feminism) should guide US foreign policy today.



Write a philosophical dialogue featuring three characters including a philosopher whose views are primarily under analysis – (e.g., Descartes, Locke, Hume) and a recognisable critic of the primary figure.





“All school sectors must provide all students with access to high-quality schooling that is free from discrimination based on gender, language, sexual orientation, pregnancy, culture, ethnicity, religion, health or disability, socioeconomic background or geographic location. ”

In your research paper, reflect on the goals quoted above, and the role of socio-cultural factors in the experiences of different school students.

Your 'research' will primarily consist of ...

- Finding material on a given subject (what? where from?)
- Evaluating its **credibility** (accurate?, up-to-date? says who?)
- Using it to find further sources (always check bibliography)
- Selecting, copying and storing/organising the relevant bits so you can use them later in your analysis

In my research, what should I consult ...

... an encyclopaedia, an academic book or journal, a popular magazine, a database or an internet site?

- Is this *exactly* on the topic?
- Is it likely to be up-to-date?
- Is the author reliable? Why have they written this? Who are they writing for?
- What do I want the source for?
- Don't forget to ask yourself: what exactly is expected of me in this essay?

‘Research’ and ‘Analysis’



- Analysis takes you beyond simply reporting on what you’ve found out. But it is more than just your own opinions.
- It’s not just ‘I think Pauline Smith is wrong’ ... but
- ‘Smith(1997: 20) argues that ... This position contradicts the assumptions used in the work by Waters (2016) because...’

‘Research’ and ‘Criticism’

- Being critical is not the same as being negative
- You should not say that ‘Bjorn Lomborg’s contribution to understanding climate change is useless’.... But
- ‘In his work on climate change, Lomborg (2001) overlooks what is now accepted as climate change science...

THE BASICS

- manage your time effectively
 - balance research with other commitments
 - balance reading, thinking and writing

Reading and thinking pays off, but you need to leave time for drafting, writing and re-writing.



BASICS (cont.)

- Use on-line materials provided through the UQ library (they are regularly updated)
- Use data bases available through UQ Library web portal

Online Databases

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Subject coverage

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- Communication science
- Demography
- Economics
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- Political science
- Policy studies
- Psychology
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- Discover answers to common questions at ProQuest's Product Support Center.
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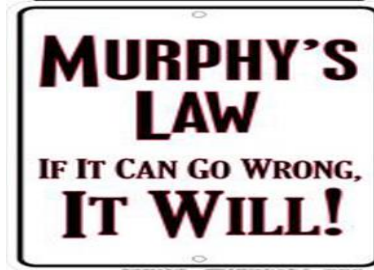
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What if you can't find the books that you need?

- Put a hold on so you get it next
- Request lecturer or librarian to put it in the high-use section etc.
- Try other libraries
- Consider alternative resources

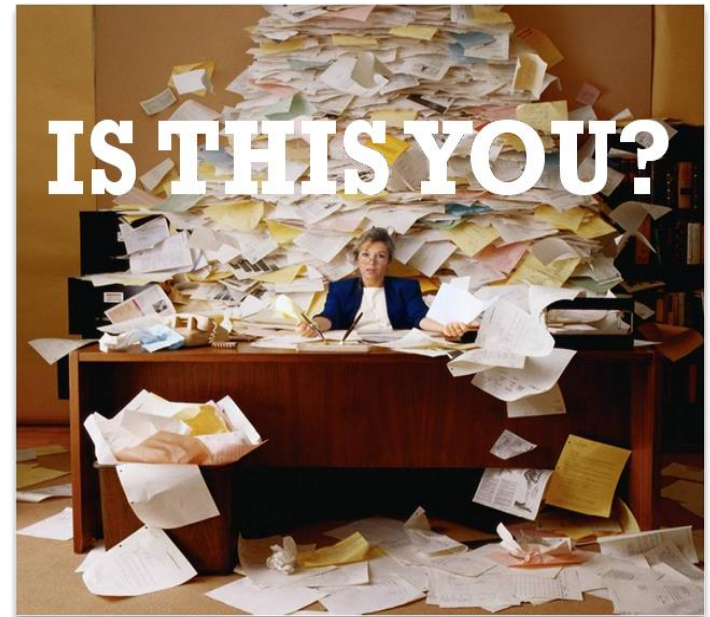
THE BASICS



- Your computer **will** crash during your UQ studies.
- There are on-campus facilities in the libraries & at ITS
- Be paranoid
 - back up your documents regularly
 - email copies of your work to a friend (or yourself)
- Get a good anti-virus program and keep it up to date

Organisation of obtained information...

- Make notes to record your search path and any dead ends
- Photocopy - don't forget the endnotes and where it came from - source, page no.
- Cut and copy from websites – don't forget the URL and date accessed.



Referencing

- Keep a record of where you got it from and, for websites, when
- Different disciplines (history, literary studies, social studies ...) have different citation systems.

**FIND OUT WHAT SYSTEM YOU ARE
EXPECTED TO USE**

Two key reasons why referencing is important:

- Good research/essays are well referenced
- Improper referencing is seen as masking plagiarism

The University has defined plagiarism as:

"Plagiarism is the act of misrepresenting as one's own original work the ideas, interpretations, words or creative works of another. These include published and unpublished documents, designs, music, sounds, images, photographs, computer codes and ideas gained through working in a group. These ideas, interpretations, words or works may be found in print and/or electronic media."

For more information visit:

<http://www.library.uq.edu.au/training/plagiarism.html>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY



referencing and avoiding plagiarism

Academic Integrity Tutorial Login

Enter your UQ student username and password
Your student username is used to track completion of this module.

User Name:

Password:

Remember me next time.

Log In

In summary:

- Research is central to everyone at UQ
- Get informed: use the library, IT, Student Services and the Learning Hub
- Get on top of basic things quickly (later you may not have time for them)
- Be well organised (start work on your research/exams/essays early)
- Ask questions, attend lectures/tutorials/seminars and be proactive
- Take time out everyday to look after yourself and those you care about

Student Services

Learning Hub resources



Learning workshops

We hold several workshops each week on topics, including:

- assignments
- exams
- research skills
- speaking skills
- studying
- writing
- personal development

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