Workshop: Library Databases and Information Seeking – How to find sources for an academic paper?

Metropolia’s Library and Information Services 2019-2020
Purpose of the workshop

• To find **reliable sources of quality information** for your report, such as scholarly articles (=peer reviewed articles) and books from the library collection

• Three sources
  • 2 books and 1 article OR 1 book and 2 articles
Know your research topic

• Analyze your topic and its central concepts.
• Understanding the concepts helps you to find keywords and choose effective search terms!
Identify and develop your keywords

• Determine the key concepts of your topic
• Brainstorm alternative words
• Use dictionaries
  • MOT dictionaries
  • Macmillan Dictionary
  • Cambridge Dictionary
• Try Wikipedia, Google
• Make a concept map or a mind map
**Concept map example**

**Topic of the report:** Agile Software Development

Central concept: Agile Software Development

- **Scrum methodology**
- **XP (Extreme Programming)**
- **Lean software development**

**Software development methods**

- **Project management**
- **Agile manifesto**
- **Software production**

- **Broader term**

- **Same as/related to** (synonyms, language variations)

- **Related terms**

- **Narrower terms**
Library resources
MetCat Finna
https://metropolia.finna.fi/?lng=en-gb

• Locate print books and journals
• Access eBooks, eJournals & Metropolia theses
• Log in for remote use
• Use filters to narrow your search result
eBooks

- Available via MetCat.
- Library provides access to several e-book services.
- Loan periods and required reading applications vary
  - Read e-books in a web browser, or download for offline reading on your device.
  - Access from off-campus.
- More information on [http://libguides.metropolia.fi/ebooks](http://libguides.metropolia.fi/ebooks)
O'Reilly Safari Online
https://www.oreilly.com/library/view/temporary-access/

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LibGuides

http://libguides.metropolia.fi/

- Guides to library use
- Field specific guides
- Easy access to library databases
- Off-campus availability to e-resources

LibGuide to Technology

https://libguides.metropolia.fi/tech
Articles and databases

http://libguides.metropolia.fi/media-and-ict/articles_databases

• Library databases for electronic articles in ICT:
  • ACM
  • IEEE
  • Communication & Mass Media Complete (EBSCO)

• Use limiters (=filters) to narrow your search results.
Too many hits? Narrow your search

• **Search operator AND**
  - "Electronic devices" AND transistors
    --> Retrieves documents containing both words

• **Search operator NOT**
  - "Operating systems" NOT Windows
    --> documents that contain "operating systems" but not "Windows"

• **Phrase searching**
  - "electric circuits", "signal processing" (use "quotation marks")
    --> Returns results where search words appear side by side in the document

• **Other useful limiters:** publication date or type, language
Too few hits? Broaden your search

- **Search operator OR**
  - Combine synonyms
    - "Electromagnetic compatibility” OR EMC
    - "Internet of Things” OR IOT
  - -> returns any document containing both or one of the search words

- **Truncation**
  - Add * or ? to the stem of a word
  - **electro**- > electronics, electromagnetism ....
Google Scholar

http://scholar.google.com/

- Google's academic search engine
- Searches specifically for scholarly literature, like
  - peer-reviewed papers, theses, abstracts, technical reports
- Within Metropolia’s network, some of the search results will provide direct links to articles in library databases
How to evaluate the reliability of sources?

Library databases are credible
  • publishers have checked the contents for accuracy and reliability

• Check at least the following:
  • Year of publication
  • Coverage

• Web resources? Check also:
  • Reliability -> Who is the author? Who is the publisher? What is the author’s background organisation?
Ask anything – We help you succeed!

• Send an email  library@metropolia.fi
• Make a service request service  https://hd.metropolia.fi/
• Call us
• Chat with us
• Or drop by the library!
Exercise  https://cutt.ly/ueAFSb0

• Select one slide for yourself.
• Write your topic in the title-field.
• Write some keywords. Use dictionaries
  https://libguides.metropolia.fi/tech/books
• Find an e-book or printed book (1-2)
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