

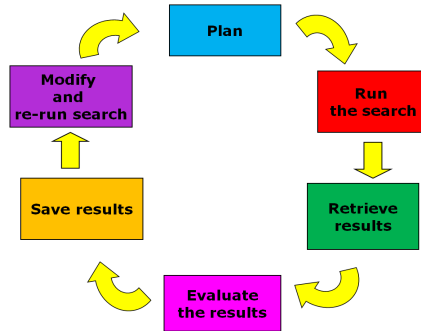
# Internet Research

It is easy to get side-tracked or lost when doing research on the internet. Here are some tips and useful sites to use to help you cut down on those wasted hours.

- It can be useful to design a research cycle. Start with exactly what you want to find out and then end by changing wording or databases to see if you find different information.

## A research cycle

Use this template as a way of helping you start your internet research



- Through the **Library website** you can access many databases which may save you a long search via Google. They include:

**Infotrac** (access to over 3000, worldwide newspapers and journals)



**Issues Online** (access to key reports, statistics and information on a wide range of social issues)

[www.independence.co.uk](http://www.independence.co.uk)

**Oxford Reference Online** is a collection of facts, figures, translations and definitions.



**Scran** is an online resource with over 360,000 copyright cleared images, videos and sounds for your study needs.

Go to the website and follow the E-Resource link to see all the databases.

**The Library**  
<http://library.northamptoncollege.ac.uk>

## URL

A 'url' is the address of the web page you are accessing. eg:

**http://-** tells your browser how to deal with the website it is about to open

**www.northamptoncollege-** name of the website or organisation

**.ac-** type of website or organisation

**.uk-** which country runs the website

## Codes

What do the different endings of web addresses mean?

**.gov-** a government server or website

**.ac, .edu-** academic, educational, college or university website or server

**.co, .com-** commercial or company servers such as Tesco or the BBC

**.org-** non-government or non profit organisations, such as charities

## Boolean Operators

If you are using a search engine such as Google or Yahoo you may find your search criteria is too broad and you end up with thousands of results. To help you refine your search try using these three words, known as 'Boolean Operators'

- AND-** eg 'fish and chips'- results will only have records with both words in
- OR-** eg 'fish or chips'- results will have either or both of these words in
- NOT-** eg 'fish not chips'- will have results for fish but not chips

## Popular search engines

Here are some of the most popular websites used for searching:

[www.google.co.uk](http://www.google.co.uk)

[www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)

[www.excite.co.uk](http://www.excite.co.uk)

<http://uk.altavista.com>



## Subject gateways

Here are some useful academic websites or gateways you can use, instead of doing a random search.

[www.bubl.ac.uk](http://www.bubl.ac.uk)

[www.ipl.org](http://www.ipl.org)

<http://scholar.google.co.uk/>



## Reliability

- Do not trust** everything that you read on the internet- it can be false or biased
- Always search more than one website**, or check through books/ journals to verify any information you want to use in your work
- Make sure you **reference** anyone else's work you have used, so you cannot be accused of plagiarising
- Wikipedia-** information from here can be unreliable, biased and anyone who has account can add records, which could contain false details.

