

ABC: information literacy and bibliographic research

by *ABC group*

Information Literacy in the Social Sciences area

Last rev. 30/3/2015



“We have become like the most primitive Paleolithic man, once more global wanderers, but information gatherers rather than food gatherers. From now on the source of food, wealth and life itself will be information.”

Marshall McLuhan

Marshall McLuhan, “Agenbite of outwit”

The 5 rules of information literacy...

Research is a process

Investigating

Searching

Locating

Evaluating

Using



Public domain: Sidney Paget, 1892

Have you heard a song and do you want to have it?
You have to investigate to find out :

- song's title
- the performer
- the cd
- where...or if...you could buy it

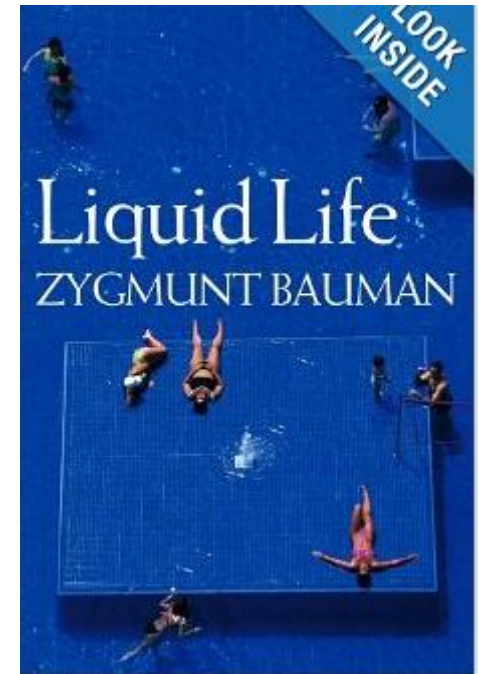


Creative Commons: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/davvyk/407737977>

Has your professor recommended you a book and you want to read it?

You have to investigate to find out :

- book's title
- the author
- the edition
- where...or if...you could buy it



Creative Commons: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/davvyk/407737977>

- Bibliographic research is like an investigation:
 - Identify a topic!
 - **What's your goal?** Report, Paper, Thesis...
 - **Are you able to use the proper sources?**
Not every topic can be supported by adequate (and linguistically approachable) bibliography .
- Plan your writing process
 - Presentation, analysis, scientific debate
 - Introduction, analysis of the **primary sources** and **secondary** ones, debate, methodology used, conclusions, bibliography, annexes...

Umberto Eco, *How to Write a Doctoral Thesis: The Humanistic Subjects*, 1977

**Why is investigation so
important for your research?**

how you ask

+

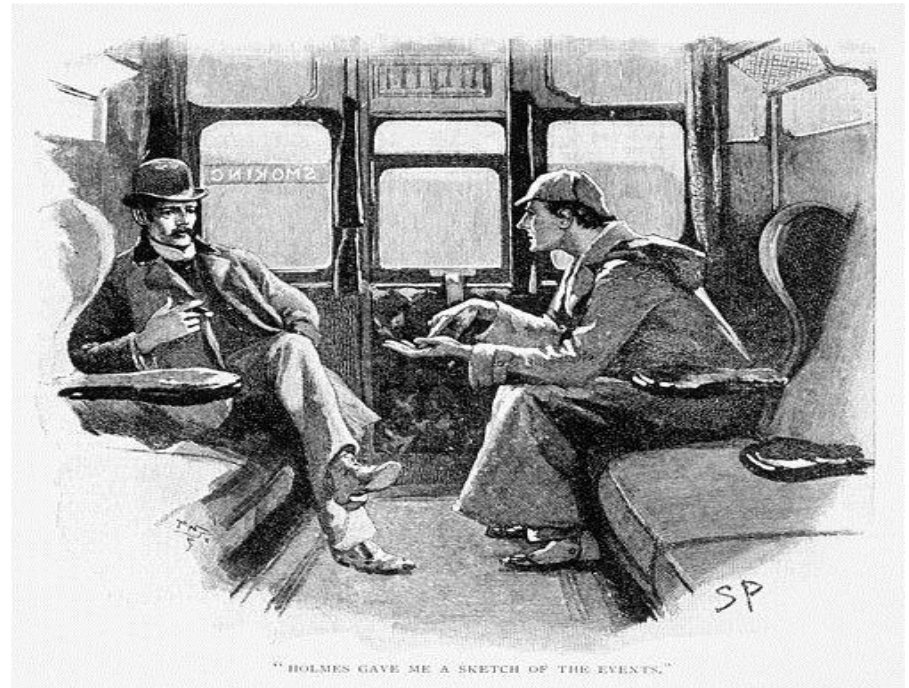
where you look

=

What you get



- How?
- Where?
- When?
- Why?
- What?



Public domain: Sidney Paget, 1892

- make a list of **key-words**, use 'tag cloud' ...



■ browse subjects

Physical Details 121 p. : ill. ; 18 cm.

Series Trigger issues

ISBN 1904456774 (pbk.) : £4.99
9781904456773 (pbk.) : £4.99

Subject Soccer.

Soccer -- Economic aspects.

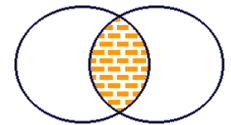
Soccer -- Equipment and supplies -- Economic aspects.

Soccer -- Equipment and supplies -- Social aspects.

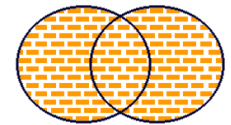


■ use Boolean operators

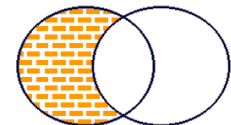
And + between concepts to narrow your search



Or between concepts to expand your search



Not - before a concept to keep it out



“ “ Full sentence



<http://www.pinterest.com/stkateslibrary/library-fun/>

Search by topics, key-words, author, etc. in:

- **Bibliographies**

List of documents dealing with a specific topic or produced by a specific author...

- **Catalogues**

To locate bibliographic informations

- **Bibliographic databases**

A systematic collection of bibliography and abstracts of journal, report or newspaper articles listed in it. Sometimes full-text is available.

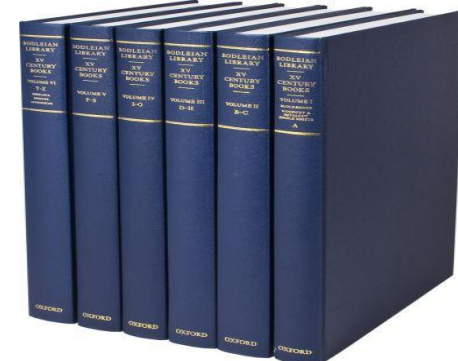
- **Meta-search portals**

To search simultaneously different databases
([Digital library Padova](#), [Portale AIRE](#))

- **Web**

Scholarly search engines ([Google scholar](#), [Google books](#)), institutional web sites and archives ([Padua@Thesis](#), [Padua@Research](#))

Different kind of documents...



<http://www.shutterstock.com/pic.mhtml?id=120818398>

Searching : what?

Weber, M., *The methodology of the social sciences*, Glencoe, the Free Press, 1949.

“Research in economics: an international review of economics”. Amsterdam : Elsevier , 1997-

Fiume, Raffaele. Dialogue with standard setters. “Financial reporting”, (1) 2013, pp. 169-173.

Balestrino, Alessandro. Kind of black: the musicians' labour market in Italy. “Labour”, (26) 2012, 4, pp. 472-491.

Honneth, A. “Scuola di Francoforte” in Dizionario delle scienze sociali, a cura di W. Outhwaite ...[et al.], ed. italiana a cura di P. Jedlowski, Milano, il Saggiatore, 1997, pp. 650-653.



Searching

&

Locating

: where



...different way to search





UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



SISTEMA BIBLIOTECARIO
DI ATENEO

Using the library

- The resources shelf (ITA)
- EasySearch
- Off-campus connection
- Reference management
- Training courses
- Interlibrary loan
- Document delivery
- About publishing
- Digital repositories

What are you looking for?

- Books and journals
- Articles and databases
- Citations
- Digital collections
- Ask a librarian



Advanced Search

Pc stations for searching:

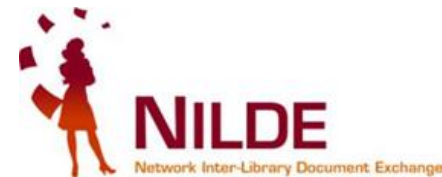
- University of Padova's Libraries
- wi-fi
- [Auth-Proxy](#) everywhere



And if you don't find what you are looking for...

- Document delivery

- Articles
- Book chapters



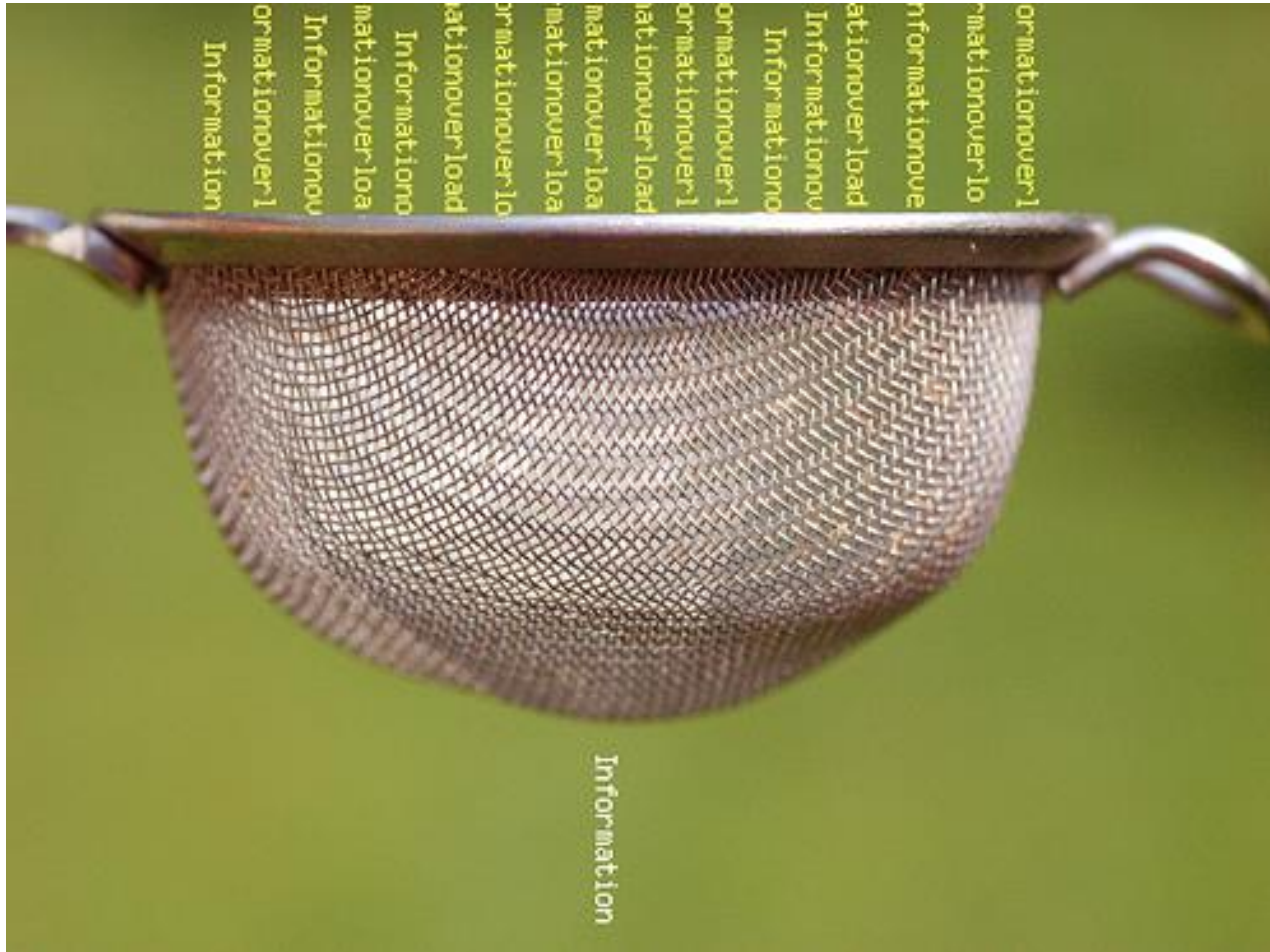
- Interlibrary loan

- Books from other italian libraries

- and the Web?



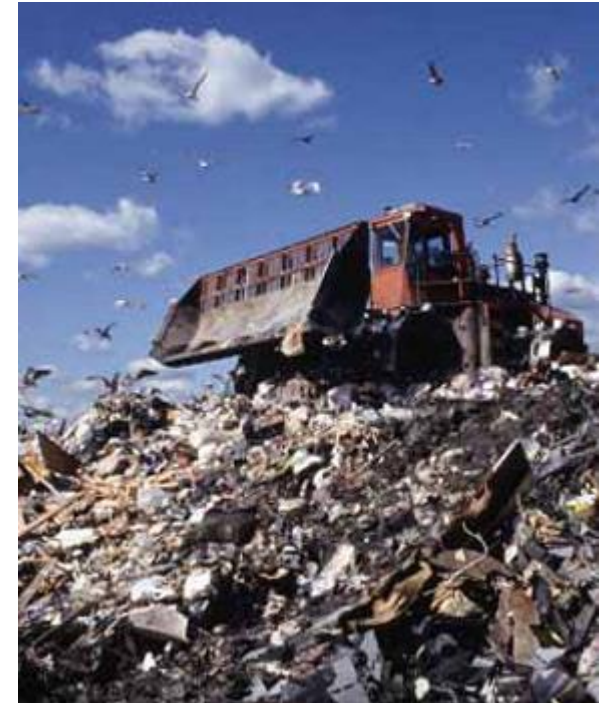
Evaluating (1)



Creative Commons: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/verbeeldingskr8/3638834128>

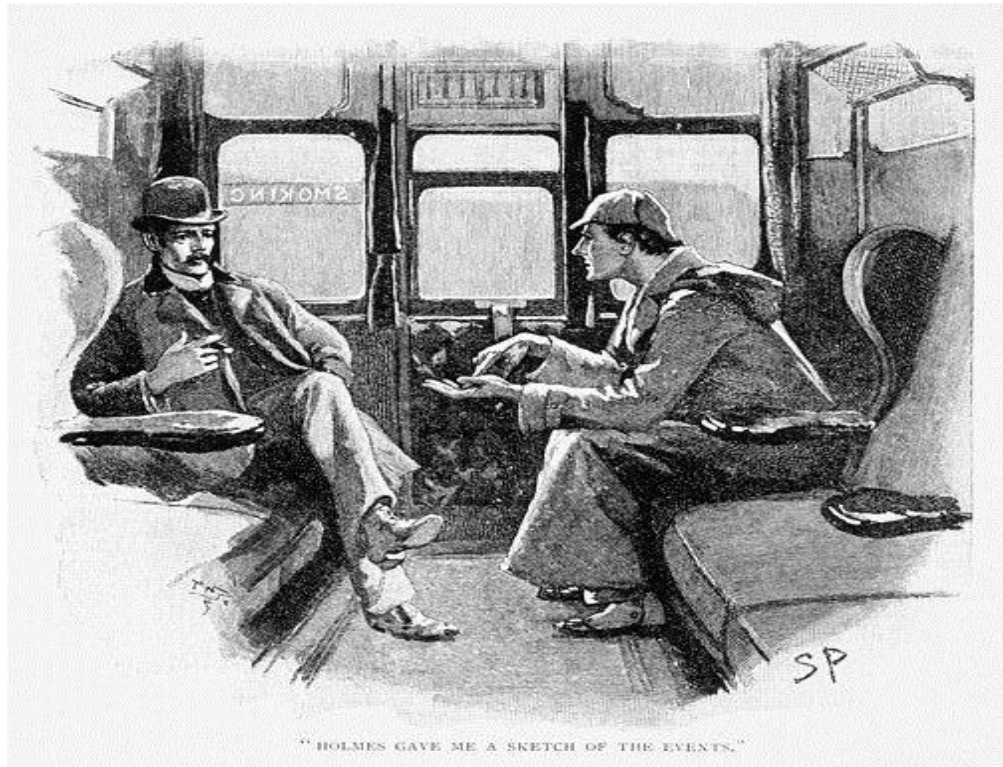
Web resources

- quantity vs quality
- reliability
- information noise
- Information overload



<http://tip.uwyo.edu/categories.html>

- Is it pertinent?
- Is it relevant?
- Is it reliable?



Public domain: Sidney Paget, 1892



Evaluating (4)



■ **Currency**

Information can quickly become obsolete. When was the information published or last updated? Are links or references to other sources up to date? Is your topic in an area that changes rapidly?

■ **Rilevance**

Does the information answer your research question? Does the information meet the stated requirements of the assignment? Is the information too technical or too simplified for you to use? Does the source add something new to your knowledge of your topic?

■ **Authority**

What are the author's credentials? Is the author affiliated with an educational institution or prominent organization? Can you find information about the author from reference books or the Internet? Do other books or articles cite the author?

■ **Accuracy**

Are there statements you know to be false? Are there errors in spelling, punctuation, or grammar? Was the information reviewed by editors or subject experts before it was published? What citations or references support the author's claims? What do other people have to say about the topic?

■ **Purpose**

Why did the author or publisher make this information available? Is there an obvious bias or prejudice? Are alternative points of view presented? Does the author omit important facts or data that might disprove a claim? Does the author use strong or emotional language?

■ Different planning:

☒ how to find sources

☐ how to write a dissertation

Title page, layout, graphic objects, summary

Cfr. [Laboratorio Sezione Elaborazione Dati](#)

☐ ...and **how to cite?**



- Citations:
 - state every source you use
 - give scientific credit to your work



M. C. Escher [Drawing Hands](#), 1948



Utilizing : plagiarism (1)



- i.e. “the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own (Oxford Dictionaries 2014)
- It means to steal words, ideas, creative works, and it’s:
 - illegal, because of the copyright law;
(L.633/1944 and other rev.);
 - reprehensible, because it runs against intellectual honesty – the basic rule of our University.

Cfr. [Tesi e copyright](#)

Plagiarism Affair: Defense Minister Guttenberg Resigns

German Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg resigned from Chancellor Angela Merkel Tuesday. The move comes after weeks of mounting pressure surrounding accusations that he plagiarized significant portions of his doctoral dissertation.

Fresh Trouble for Free Democrats: Another German Politician Faces Plagiarism Accusations

Silvana Koch-Mehrin, a rising star in Germany’s Free Democratic Party, is being accused of plagiarizing parts of her doctoral thesis and her university has started a probe. Similar allegations cost Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg his job as defense minister.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/fresh-trouble-for-free-democrats-another-german-politician-faces-plagiarism-accusations-a-756760.html>

Romania PM plagiarized thesis: university academics

BY RADU MARINAS

BUCHAREST | Fri Jul 20, 2012 7:42am EDT

Romania’s leftist Prime Minister Victor Ponta looks on before a meeting with interim President Crin Antonescu and the chairmans of both the lower and upper chambers of the parliament at the presidential palace in Bucharest June 16, 2012.

CREDIT: REUTERS/RADU SIGHETI

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/20/us-romania-politics-idUSBRE86J0G720120720>



Utilizing : plagiarism (2)



There can be different kinds of plagiarism.

Some are more evident...

You read:

The emancipation from economic traditionalism appears, no doubt, to be a factor which would greatly strengthen the tendency to doubt the sanctity of religious tradition, as of all traditional authorities.

But it is necessary to note, what has often been forgotten, that the Reformation meant not the elimination of the Church's control over everyday life, but rather the substitution of a new form of control for the previous one.

(Max Weber, *The protestant ethic and the spirit of Capitalism*, Allen & Unwin, 1930, p. 36)

You write:

The emancipation from economic traditionalism appears, no doubt, to be a factor which would greatly strengthen the tendency to doubt the sanctity of religious tradition, as of all traditional authorities.

But it is necessary to note, what has often been forgotten, that the Reformation meant not the elimination of the Church's control over everyday life, but rather the substitution of a new form of control for the previous one.

**You have to use the 'quotation marks'
and to cite the source !!!**



Utilizing : plagiarism (3)



...other are more hidden.

You read:

The emancipation from economic traditionalism appears, no doubt, to be a factor which would greatly strengthen the tendency to doubt the sanctity of religious tradition, as of all traditional authorities.

But it is necessary to note, what has often been forgotten, that the Reformation meant not the elimination of the Church's control over everyday life, but rather the substitution of a new form of control for the previous one.

(Max Weber, *The protestant ethic and the spirit of Capitalism*, Allen & Unwin, 1930, p. 36)

You write:

The emancipation from economic traditionalism gave strenght to the tendency to doubt the sanctity of religious tradition.

But the Reformation meant only substitution of the Church's control on every day life whith another form of control, not the elimination of it.

**If you reword a book's passage
you have to cite the source!**

Different **citation styles** (international and sector-based standard)

- Chicago A/Chicago B?/Harvard?/or...

Every citation style establishes rules about:

- **Details**
 - like author, title, publication date, retrieval date, etc.
- **Key frame and format**
 - Series of details (according to the type of material!)
 - Punctuation, fonts, space.

A reference management software can help you to:

- import citations from catalogues, databases and websites
- create and organise bibliographies for theses, books and articles
- insert and format citations within the text of documents



Creative Commons:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mario-caruso/246356668/>

Utilizing : how to write

- Text's planning, writing & revision
- Layout rules
- Reading and writing ability



PaDUA
@thesis

 [Accedi \(solo Staff\)](#)

Padova Digital University Archive



[home](#)

[info](#)

[help](#)

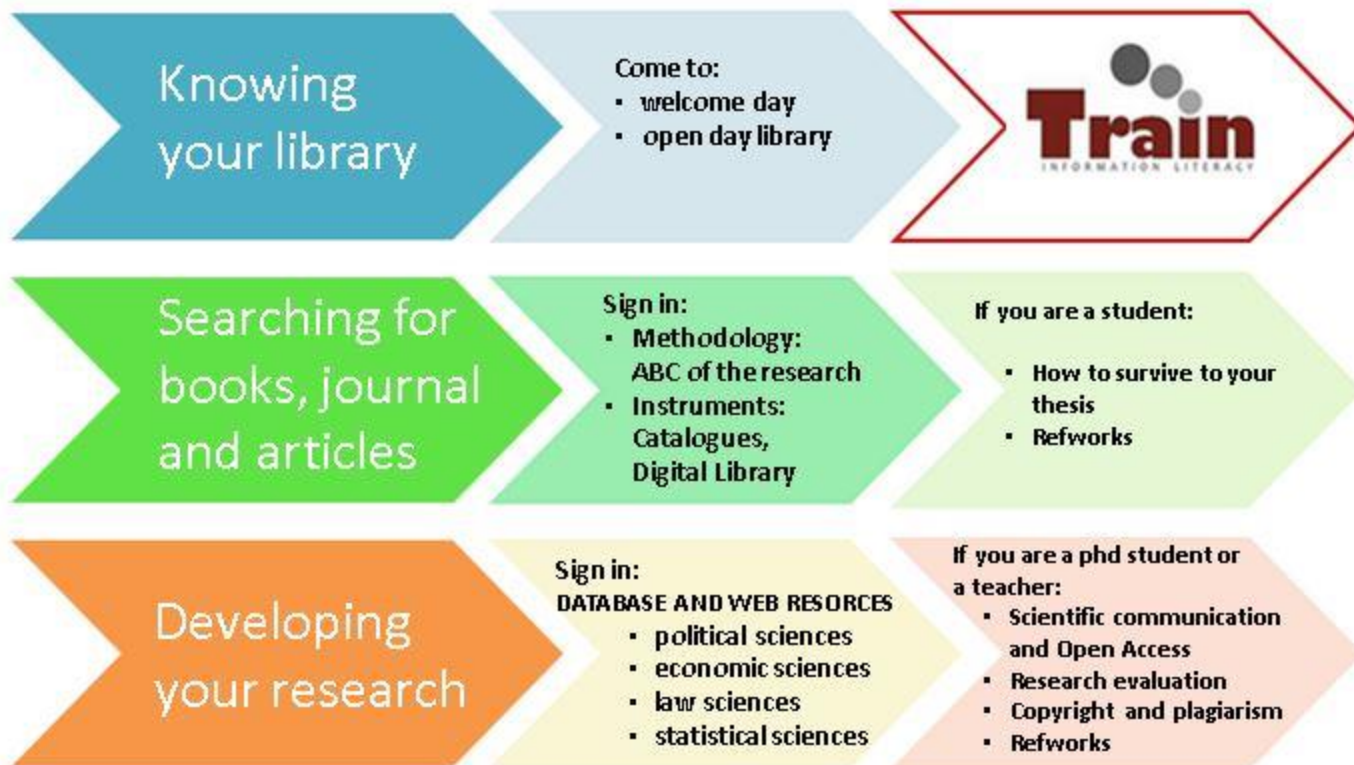
[contatti](#)

[bibliotecari](#)

- To consult other theses
- To submit your thesis and make it more visible
- To avoid plagiarism



Don't miss your train!
Check the schedule and [sign in](#).



Investigations go on...

- Lesina, Roberto. Il nuovo manuale di stile. 2. ed. Bologna, Zanichelli, 1994.
- Eco, Umberto. Come si fa una tesi di laurea. 10 ed. Milano, Bompiani, 1995.
- De Francesco, Corrado e Delli Zotti, Giovanni. Tesi (e tesine) con pc e web. Milano, F. Angeli, 2004.
- Riediger, Hellmut. Scrivere tesi, saggi e articoli. Milano, Bibliografica, 2009.
- Sala, Virginio B. Tesi di laurea con computer e internet. Milano, Apogeo, 2009
- Guida alle citazioni bibliografiche
https://it.bul.sbu.usi.ch/learning/guide_to_citing_references
- Per una sintesi del Chicago Manual of Style cfr.
<http://www.aib.it/aib/contr/dellorso1.htm>
- Per il sistema Harvard cfr.
http://www.economia.unipd.it/sites/decon.unipd.it/files/DIDATTICA_Guida%20riferimenti%20bibliografici%20TEM.pdf



Riarranged from:

- Open Publication Licence: TIP - Tutorial for InfoPower, University of Wyoming Libraries 2010
<http://tip.uwyo.edu/categories.html>
(grazie a Cheryl E. Goldenstein!)
- 'ABC della ricerca: competenza informativa & indagini bibliografiche' di Massimo Ferrante (vers.11/2011).

Translated in English by Costantina Bruno and Michele Visentin.

Images by: Costantina Bruno, Gianluca Drago, Michele Visentin.

