



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**AUCKLAND**  
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau  
NEW ZEALAND

# BFA(Hons)

**Library support Q & A**

# Library Support

Staff for Faculty of Creative Arts  
& Industries

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# Answer in CHAT

**What is your topic area?**

**How confident do you feel in the Academic environment?**

**What do you find most challenging at the moment?**

# Search Strategies

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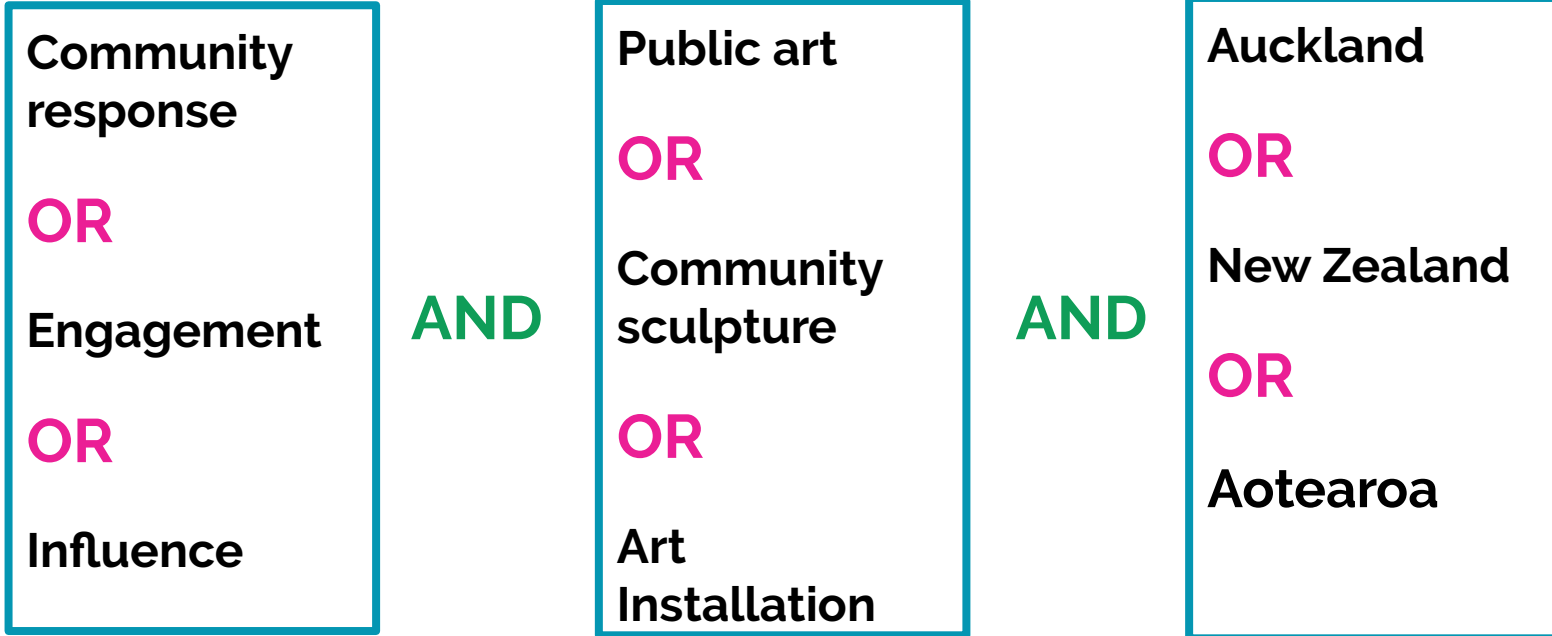
**Define your research query**

**Mind-mapping** <https://coggle.it/>

**Identify CONCEPTS**

**Identify KEYWORDS**

# Developing your searches: Concept tables



Join different **CONCEPTS** with **AND**  
Join different **SYNONYMS** with **OR**

# Literature databases

- Library databases mostly index journal articles
- Many databases multi-disciplinary

*Different* databases index *different* content

- Journal coverage may vary
- Some may index conference proceedings and books/reports

**There is no one single database for all of your needs**

# Searching databases

**Boolean operators: AND, OR NOT** to combine search terms

**Truncation symbol** (\*, \$, or ?) to find all versions of a word

**Brackets or quotation marks** to keep keyword phrases intact:

**Wild card search: ?** Find all spellings of a word

Wom?n = Woman, Women

Colo?r = Color, Colour



# Research Log

Keep a record of your searches to maximise your time  
database searching

**What :** database

**Which:** concepts/keyword combinations

**Where:** abstract/title/keywords/anywhere

**Results:** number of results

# Google Scholar

- Useful multidisciplinary database
- Always **log in via the [Library website](#)** – increases full text access
- It is a subset of total available resources
- Always use in conjunction with other Library databases!

# Database suggestions beyond Fine Arts Guide

Fine Arts

Philosopher's Index

Iwidex

New Zealand Index

DAAI - Design and applied arts Index

Art & Architecture archive

(See also Architecture, Philosophy, Maori Studies & Pacific Studies databases)

# Other collections

[Special collections](#)

[TV & Radio](#)

[Manuscript & Archives](#)

[Theses](#)

# Further resources

[Smudge Skittle](#) – a little inventory of resources entangling creative practice research and writing.

[Reading effectively](#) - explores strategies that increase comprehension and recall, including critical reading and active reading.

[Advanced Information Research Skills - AIRS](#) - Online modules to develop advanced information research skills (QUT Queensland University of Technology)

# Reflective writing

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# Reflective writing

*We do not learn from experience... we learn from reflecting on experience.”*

John Dewey

Reflective thinking and writing involves three core phases:

- **Recalling and describing the experience** you engaged with (e.g., a reading, a project you worked on individually or with a group, a theoretical concept, or a business practice).
- **Analysing and interpreting the experience** in relation to your personal perspective and other perspectives (sometimes with reference to a model or theory from your course).
- **Thinking about the implications** for practice and for your learning, and what you would or could do differently.

# Consider

Looking at academic writing in general to get familiar with it.

What it may mean for you to “inquiry about your creative practice”.

Writing from the beginning of your programme.

Writing as documenting media for your reflective process and a thinking tool.

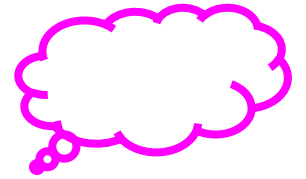
Experimenting how you would communicate your ideas and individual journey.

Looking at your writing from the perspective of your reader as well.

**There are learning opportunities for you to access (online, w/s, one on one).**



# Useful sites



[Write@uni](#) : module **2** (on critical thinking), section 2.6-2.9 ([beyond the first impression](#)), and also module **4** (on writing). Here, there is an [annotated music essay \(4.8\)](#) with general information on writing. University of Auckland.

ELE Online: [Writing](#) University of Auckland.

Reflection Toolkit. University of Edinburgh (models for reflective writing)  
<https://www.ed.ac.uk/reflection/reflectors-toolkit/reflecting-on-experience>

Australian Library and Information Association, reflective writing guide  
<https://www.alia.org.au/sites/default/files/documents/Reflective%20Practic%20Vocabulary%20Aid.pdf>

# Libraries & Learning Services Te Tumu Herenga

Ask us

<https://www.forms.auckland.ac.nz/en/public/library/ask-us.html>



**One to one research consults**

[Ask Us](#) to book

**Drop in sessions**

[Daily 9am-4pm](#) via Zoom

**Academic writing advice**

Book an [appointment](#)

[Library news](#) to keep up to date

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