Cathy Costa

What is Info-trek?

- Online information research skills tutorial for RMIT University students

How it can be used:
- Self paced
- As part of a class (with librarians or teachers)
- As part of an assignment

Audience:
- TAFE level students and undergraduates, new students

Access:
- Open access. Useful for off campus and overseas students
Info-trek team

- Team leader
  - Mike Brooks (Teaching & learning librarian)

- Team members
  - Iza Bartowiecz (Web master)
  - Cathy Costa (Liaison Librarian)
  - Karen Macvean (Liaison Librarian)
  - Mary Mavroudis (Liaison Librarian)

- How do we work together?
History of Info-trek

- Began as a print resource
- Current form developed online in 2002 for RMIT 101
- Redeveloped online in RMIT publishing system SIM (now Teratext) in 2003.
- Tutorial reviewed and redeveloped in early 2004
- ...a work in progress
A. Preparing

Need to know
1. How information works
2. Understanding sources of information

A1. Understand the question
A2. Identify main concepts
A3. Compile a list of keywords
A4. Develop a search strategy
A5. Where to start looking for information
A6. Keep a record

B. Searching

B1. Searching the Library catalogue
B2. Searching databases
B3. Searching the Internet
B4. Evaluating information
B5. Strategies for refining a search
B6. Locating resources

C. Presenting

C1. Referencing resources
C2. Copyright, plagiarism and fair use
C3. Assignments and assessment
C4. EndNote and MS Word

As a life-long learner, you are expected to read widely and critically and to be responsible for your own information gathering. High quality essays and assignments depend upon thorough research from a variety of information sources. Info-trek will show you step-by step how to progress through the research process. Your comments and suggestions about Info-trek will be much appreciated!
The ABC of research

- Based on the steps required to complete an assignment or research “The ABC of research”
- **A. Preparing**
- **B. Searching**
- **C. Presenting**
- Includes quizzes, activities & tips
- **Quiz 02: Concepts and keywords**
- **Activity 03: Planning a search strategy**
- Includes other ways of accessing information
- Mapping to Australia and New Zealand Information Literacy framework (2nd ed)
Base knowledge

- Background/base knowledge differentiated from steps in information research process
  - A. Preparing
    - Need to know
    - 1. How information works
      - 1a. Information cycle
      - 1b. Primary, Secondary and Tertiary sources
      - 1c. Scholarly and Popular sources
      - 1d. From general to specific publications
    - 2. Understanding sources of information
      - 2a. Using a reading list effectively
      - 2b. Books
      - 2c. Journal articles and conference papers
      - 2d. Newspaper articles
      - 2e. Web pages
      - 2f. Other sources of information
Design

- Based on topic of tourism and travel. “Discuss the benefits of tourism and travel information on the Web.” Title “Info-trek.”
- Images stored on MAMS database
A6. Keep a record

Recording your search strategies and sources including citation information is an important step in the process of researching information and for the purpose of referencing your assignments. Keeping a journal of your learning will assist you to reflect on your work and to keep a personal record of research or assignments in a

Recording information

Keeping a journal

You have completed Unit A: Preparing

Next Unit B: Searching
A. Preparing

- Need to know
  - 1. How information works
  - 2. Understanding sources of information

- A1. Understand the question
- A2. Identify main concepts
- A3. Compile a list of keywords
- A4. Develop a search strategy
- A5. Where to start looking for information
- A6. Keep a record
B. Searching

- B1. Searching the Library catalogue
- B2. Searching databases
- B3. Searching the Internet
- B4. Evaluating information
- B5. Strategies for refining a search
- B6. Locating resources
C. Presenting

- C1. Referencing resources
- C2. Copyright, plagiarism and fair use
- C3. Assignments and assessment
- C4. EndNote and MS Word
Other access points

- About Info-trek
- Feedback
- Jargon Explorer
- Practice and activities – index page
- How do I…? (Frequently asked research questions)
The future

- Add further subject specific examples for each section.
- Redesign tutorial utilizing methodology of M. David Merrill’s (Pebble-in-the-pond) instructional design.
  - Based on identification and progression of real world tasks/problems
  - [http://www.ispi.org/pdf/Merrill.pdf](http://www.ispi.org/pdf/Merrill.pdf)
- Incorporate other RMIT University Library tutorials into Info-trek