http://www.rmit.edu.au/library/info-trek

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

info-trek

Researching in the Library and on the Internet

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!

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

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

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
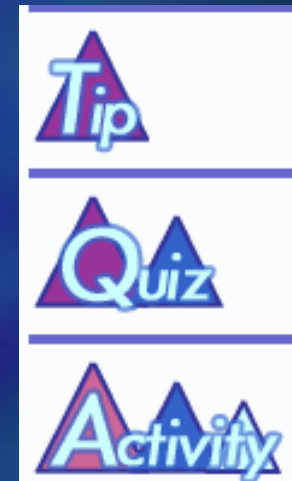
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A6. Keep a record

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

Tip

You can also contact your Liaison Librarian for assistance with organising your search results and citation information.

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
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B. Searching

- B1. Searching the Library catalogue
- B2. Searching databases
- B3. Searching the Internet
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C. Presenting

- C1. Referencing resources
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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
  - Incorporate other RMIT University Library tutorials into Info-trek
    - http://www.rmit.edu.au/library/guides

Cathy Costa RMIT University Library