

> The Essential Guide to

USING the WEB for Research

< Nigel Ford >



Contents

<i>About the author</i>	vii
1. Introduction	1
Why read this book?	1
The book's underlying rationale	4
Search tools covered in this book	6
2. Learning & critical thinking: the essentials	7
Learning and assessment basics	7
Essential learning components	16
Summary	21
3. Clarifying what is required of you	22
Clarifying the nature of your assignment	22
Planning your assignment	30
Summary	35
4. Finding high-quality information	37
Defining 'authoritative' information	38
Information seeking	41
Summary	52
5. How to do a literature review	53
Initial explorations	55
Strategies for finding high-quality academic sources	66
Summary	80
6. Information sources and search tools	81
Types of information source	81
Types of search tool	91
Summary	102
7. Mapping search approaches & techniques to information needs	103
Directory-based browsing and searching	107
Topic similarity searching	109
Document similarity searching	113

Filtering	116
Citation searching	118
Boolean and other advanced search engine operators	119
Summary	131
8. Scholarly search tools in detail	132
When to use which search tools	132
Google Scholar	134
SciVerse Scopus	140
Web of Knowledge incorporating Web of Science	155
Summary	173
9. Transforming information into evidence-based arguments	174
Making information 'your own'	174
Critically evaluating information	177
Validity, reliability, objectivity and generalisability as critical tools	182
Developing your own evidence-based arguments	191
Summary	194
10. Presenting your evidence effectively	195
Plagiarism	195
Citing your sources	198
Summary	210
11. Keeping up to date	211
A new document is published on your topic	212
Documents in which you are interested are cited in a newly published document	214
An author is cited by a new document or publishes a new document	216
A new issue of a journal in which you are interested is published	217
A website in which you are interested is updated	220
Summary	224
12. Organising & sharing your information	225
Mendeley basics	226
Importing data from Google Scholar and other search tools	228
Adding PDF files to your library	232
Inserting references into your work	233
Summary	237
<i>Postscript</i>	238
<i>Appendix: your learning style</i>	239
<i>Index</i>	243