

# Researching for Extension English – Where to look

Created by Inaburra Senior Library, 2017

## **Your local library**

Your local library has more than just books. They subscribe to databases, they have a range of print periodicals, and if you need a book that they don't have they can organise an inter-library loan.

## **State Library of New South Wales**

You can visit the library in person. You can also access their databases online using your local library card. You won't always be able to find freely available information online on the topic you're researching but there will usually be something in the library's subscription databases, which cover a wide range of topics.

## **Open Access**

Open Access (OA) articles are scholarly articles that are freely available. There are a number of OA databases you can use to find them. OA articles tend to vary between subjects though; there are a lot more OA journals in the sciences than in the humanities.

## **Google Scholar**

This is Google's database of academic articles. Not all of the articles in it are freely available though, so you will need to use some searching tricks to find the ones you can access. (More on that below)

## **Cultural institutions**

Many museums and cultural institutions have put part or all of their collections online. You won't be able to find objects in this collection with a Google search, you'll need to go to the institution's website and use their search facility. However you can use Google to find whether there are any museums or cultural institutions that might have useful content for you.

## **Digital libraries and repositories**

There are many digital libraries dedicated to niche subjects. Some are run by larger institutions, some are run by volunteers. As with online museum collections you generally won't be able to find objects in digital libraries using Google, but you can use Google to find out whether there are digital libraries with material relevant to your research area.