

MOVE TO INFOEXPERT

Learning Services

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Aims and Objectives

To provide students with the skills to:

- Construct strategies for finding information using electronic resources.
- □ Perform effective information retrieval searches using online databases, electronic journals and electronic books.
- □ Evaluate the relevance of the information retrieved.
- Manage information effectively.

Section 1

Library Research

An information literate person knows when and why they need information, where to find it, and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an ethical manner (CILIP, 2004).

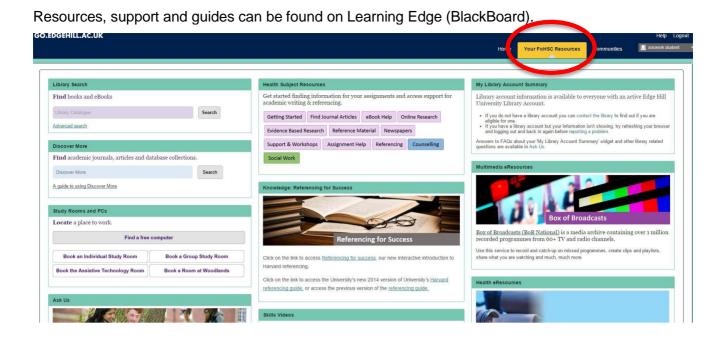
This set of skills and behaviors can be applied to any situation throughout life.

How can this be applied to my research at university?

- A need for information what is my research question?
- The resources available what resources are best suited to my enquiry?
- How to find information how will I formulate my research strategy?
- The need to evaluate search results how do I critically analyse the information retrieved?
- How to focus and refine searches how can I find the most useful results?
- Ethics and responsibility of use how do I avoid plagiarism?
- How to communicate or share your findings how should I present my findings?
- How to manage your findings how can I store and retrieve my results?

Information literacy skills are required to effectively perform 'evidence-based care' by locating reliable evidence to inform decision making.

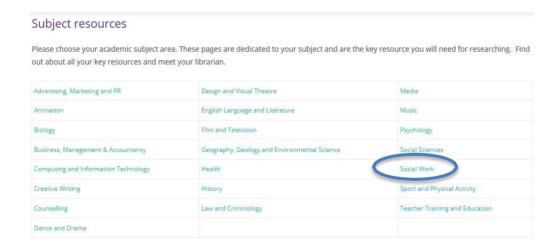
These skills will assist you in life-long learning and enhance your employability skills.



Subject Resources pages are available for all subjects via the Learning Services webpages.

www.edgehill.ac.uk/ls/

Feel free to explore other subject links for access to information that may be relevant to your research.



A Need for Information.

Your assignments require you to use high quality information that is relevant and up to date. To achieve this you need to develop good information skills by following these 3 steps:

- 1. Define your topic (focus your research question) and plan your search
- 2. Locate information
- 3. Evaluate the information
- 4. Manage information

Where do I start?

- 1. Write the question down.
- 2. In your own words describe what the assignment is about.
- 3. What are the main topics or themes?
- 4. What are the keywords? (key-words are the main concepts or themes that you use to search for books, journal articles or websites on a specific topic).
- 5. Consider alternative terms that describe your main themes or concepts. (e.g. drug use & substance misuse) or e.g. (old, older, aged, elder & geriatric)
- 6. Do information resources need to be very up to date e.g. the last 5 years only?
- 7. Do they have to be UK based only?

Consider information sources you have available to you:

- Colleagues
- Tutors
- Subject Librarians
- Library Catalogue
- Library Subject Pages

How do I find information?

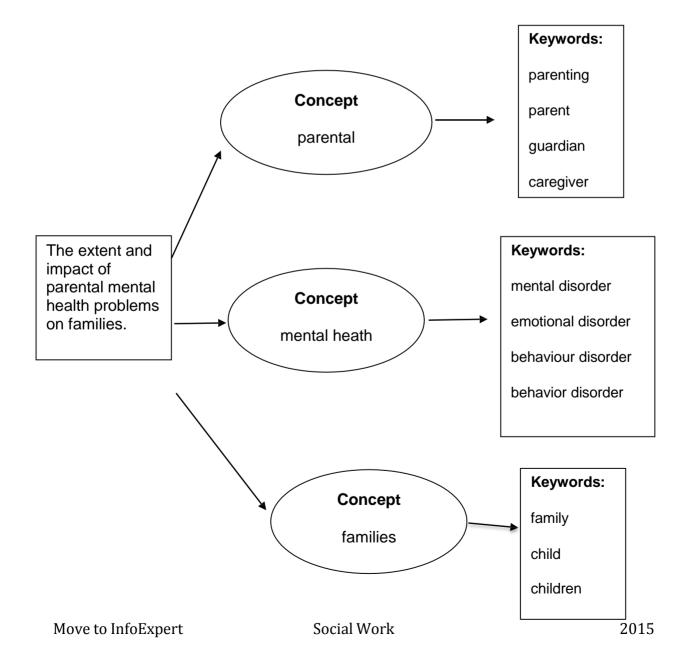
Creating a Search Strategy:

The starting point for your research will be to look at your question and break it down into key concepts.

For example you may be researching: The extent and impact of parental mental health problems on children.

The main concepts would be parent, "mental health" and children.

For each concept you will need to think about which keywords could be used to search for information. Brainstorm for synonyms, alternative terminology and spellings for each of your ideas or concepts. Use your background reading from key texts to assist with this.



Keywords can then be combined to create a number of different search strategies which can be typed into a database to find journal articles:

Sample search strategies combining keywords using AND, OR, NOT.

parent OR parental AND "mental disorder*"

caregiver AND "behavio* disorder" AND child*

Boolean Operators

Words such as **AND**, **OR**, **NOT**, when used to combine search terms or keywords, either broaden or narrow the retrieval results of a search. Named after a system of logical thought developed by an English mathematician, George Boole.

SEARCH TIPS

Truncation

* This symbol will find any ending of a word

e.g. child* will find child, childhood, children etc.

Wildcard Characters

- ? This symbol is used to replace any single character.
- ? This symbol cannot be used to begin a word.
- e.g. wom?n will find woman and women

Phrase Searching

"quotation marks" placed around two words or more will ensure they appear together in search results. e.g "risk assessment" will retrieve more focused search results.

Create a Search Strategy: Now think about your research topic or question and write it here: Write down the key concepts or ideas and keywords you could use. 1. 2. 3. Key Mental Health Concepts "mental illness*" OR Keywords "mental disorder*" OR "emotional disorder*" Write out your search strategies which you can then apply to an online database, library catalogue or search engine.

NOT FINDING WHAT YOU NEED?

- If your search strategy isn't finding any useful information, stop to question whether your strategy is effective.
- Could you be using the wrong keywords? Review relevant literature, database thesaurus, subject dictionary or key texts.
- Is the subject too specific for anything to have been written about it?

Section 2

Critical Appraisal

Appraising Research is part of Evidence Based Practice.

Research is one form of evidence to inform practice and decision making in social work. Experience and professional judgement are other important forms of evidence.

Some in social work view Evidence Based Practice as a mix of:

- a) learning what treatments or interventions "work" based on the best available research (whether experiential or not),
- b) discussing client views about the treatment to consider cultural and other differences, and to honor client self-determination and autonomy,
- c) considering the professionals "clinical wisdom" based on work with similar and dissimilar cases that may provide a context for understanding the research evidence, and
- d) considering what the professional can, and cannot, provide fully and ethically (Gambrill, 2003; Gilgun, 2005).

EBP is a way to balance your own views with large scale research evidence.



Access the Social Work Toolkit via the library catalogue and search on:

"critically reflective practice".

The best way to find high quality research information is to carry out a literature search on one or more journal databases and to download, copy or request relevant current publications.

Once you have the papers or journal articles you should consider a number of things before using the results. This applies even if the publications are from peer reviewed journals.

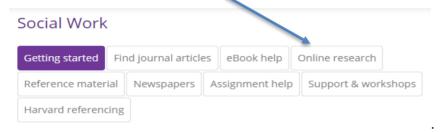
 How appropriate was the research study to your research question? (rationale for the research) Was the research study executed appropriately? (research design, sample, data collection, analysis and ethical issues)

Assessing the strengths and weaknesses of research articles is required to determine the validity, reliability and applicability of the research to social work practice.

Appraising Websites

In theory anyone can publish anything on the internet so there are important issues about the quality and quantity of the material published.

Visit your subject pages on the Learning Services Website for <u>useful websites</u> that have been chosen for online research



Whenever you are searching the internet take time to evaluate any results!

Remember to use the following criteria (otherwise known as the CRAAP test*):

Currency: The timeliness of the information.

- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?
- Are the links functional?

Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs.

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced for your needs)?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?
- Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?

Authority: The source of the information.

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?
- Examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net

Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content.

- Where does the information come from?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors?

Purpose: The reason the information exists.

- What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purposes clear?
- Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?

How do I use the Internet more effectively for Academic Research?

<u>Virtual Training Suite</u> - <u>www.vtstutorials.co.uk/</u>

Online tutorials for university subjects including: health and social care.

^{*}Modified version of CRAAP Test created by Meriam Library at California State University, Chico.

Section 3

Finding Journal Articles

Why use journal articles?

- ✓ Keep you very up-to-date with current ideas and practices.
- Report on original research.
- ✓ Contain articles written by experts in the field.
- ✓ Can be extremely specialized.
- ✓ Supplement and up-date information from recommended reading lists.

Type the journal

Locating a hard copy journal title:

You can access journal articles in a number of ways. It may be that Learning Services have a print subscription, in which case you need to search on the library catalogue, to see if we have the particular title, volume and issue you require, and then locate the printed copy of the journal on the shelves.

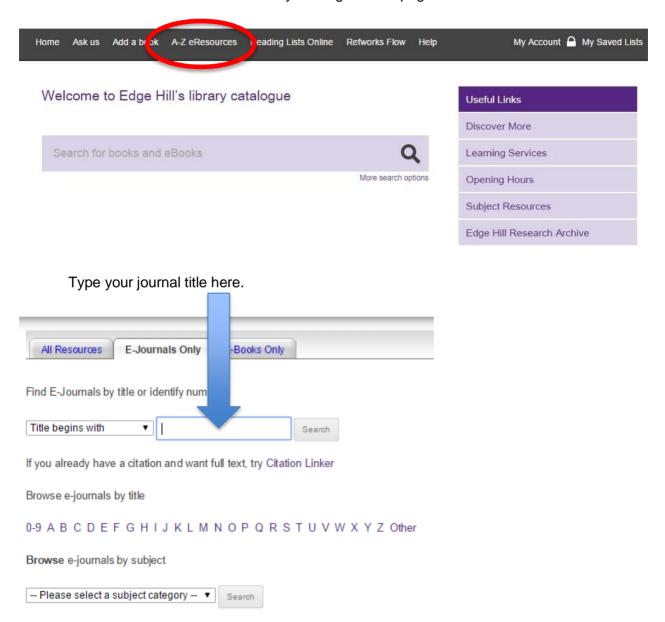
title in the search box. My Account A My Saved Lists Ask us Add a book A-Z eResources ing Lists Online Refworks Flow Welcome to Edge Hill's library ca aue **Useful Links** Discover More Search for books and eBooks Learning Services More search options Opening Hours Subject Resources

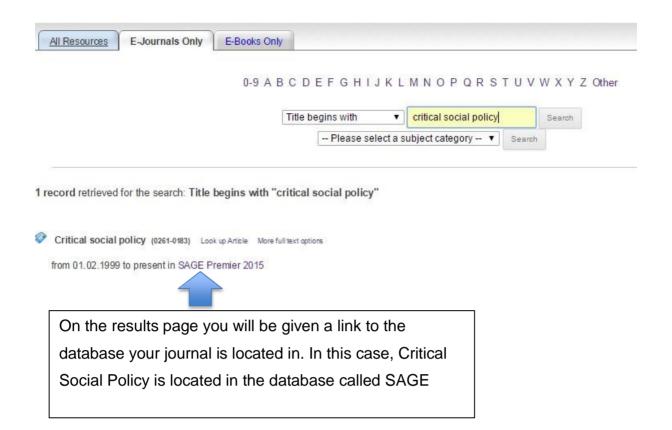
Edge Hill Research Archive

Locating an Electronic Journal Title:

It is very likely that the library has an electronic subscription to the journal you are after.

Use the A-Z eResources link on the library catalogue homepage.





If the library has neither a print or electronic copy of the journal article you require, it may be possible to obtain the article from another library. This can be done via inter-library loan.

www.edgehill.ac.uk/ls/library/inter-library-loans/

2015

Searching an Online Subscription Database

Searching Academic Search Premier

- Go to the library catalogue and search on the words Academic Search Premier
- Click on the title in the results page



Then click on the access this eResource button.

Academic Search Premier



• In the search box type: social work then click on search.



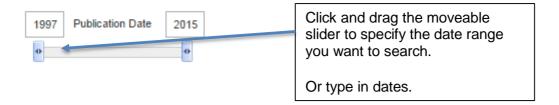
As you type you may see alternative subject terms that are used by the database to index articles. They can be selected for a more focused search.

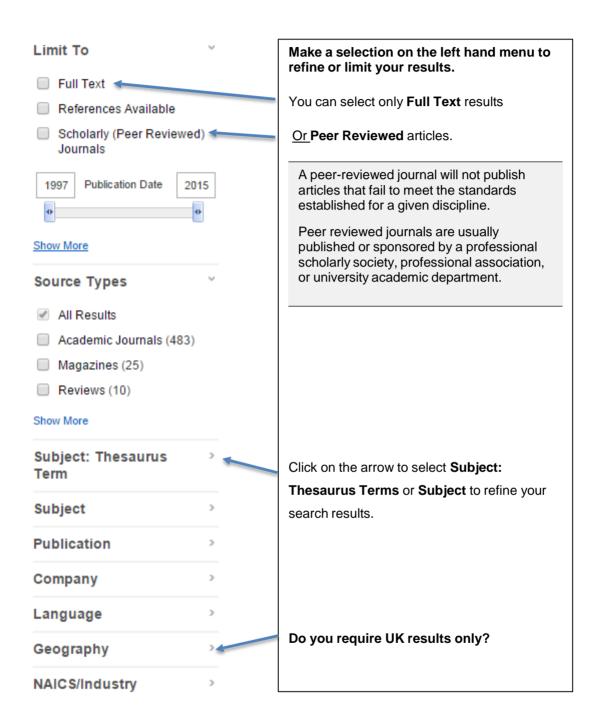
How to focus and refine your search.

Time to focus your search and think about adding additional key words and applying limits to the results. Try searching on: **social work and** "**risk assessment**"

On the left hand side of the page are a number of options to filter the results. Information can then be evaluated for suitability to the research question and then analysed and worked with to produce new knowledge and understanding.

Try limiting your results to a particular date range using the 'Publication Date' filter.



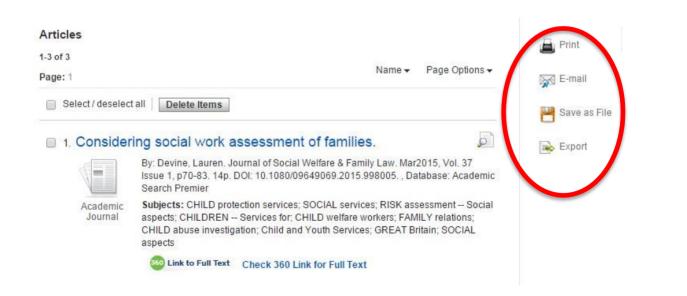


Now go through your records and select for any that you think are worth keeping for further evaluation. You can save them to a folder that you can later email, print or save.





Make sure you access the folder you saved items in before exiting the database or you will lose the articles you have saved here. It is a temporary folder.



Saving search strategies

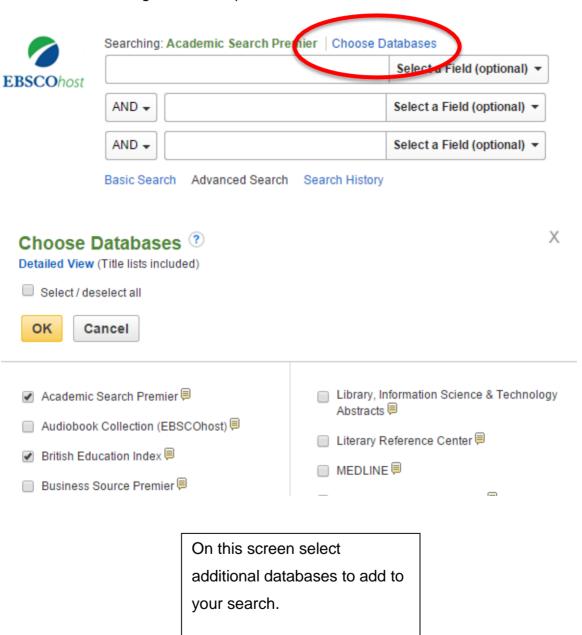
Use the following search in Academic Search Premier and add additional database to your search:

"social work" AND "risk assessment" AND "child abuse"

Filters to consider:

Geographic region = UK

Publication date range = 2008 to present date.



Using the advanced search screen enter your search terms.



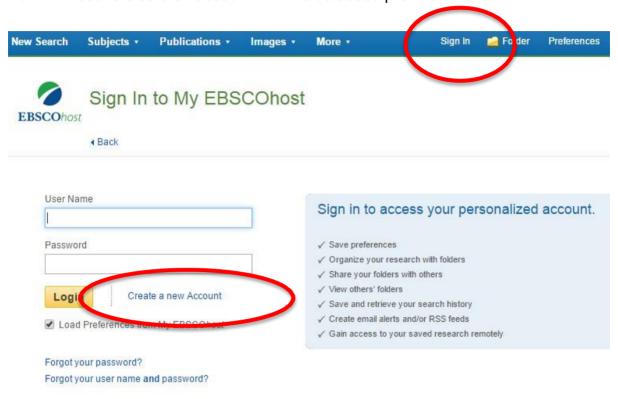
Searches / history can be printed or saved.



Email alerts and saved searches

Save your search and re-run searches or set up an email alert to receive the latest research published that matches your search strategy.

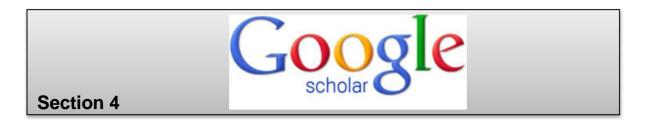
You will need to create an account with the database provider.



Online databases and eBook providers also allow you to set up accounts to store your saved searches.

Look for links on the database search screen such as:

- Log in / create account
- Sign in
- My Workspace
- My Research



Google Scholar is a freely available online search tool designed to search scholarly literature across all subjects. http://scholar.google.com



From one place, you can search across many sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites.

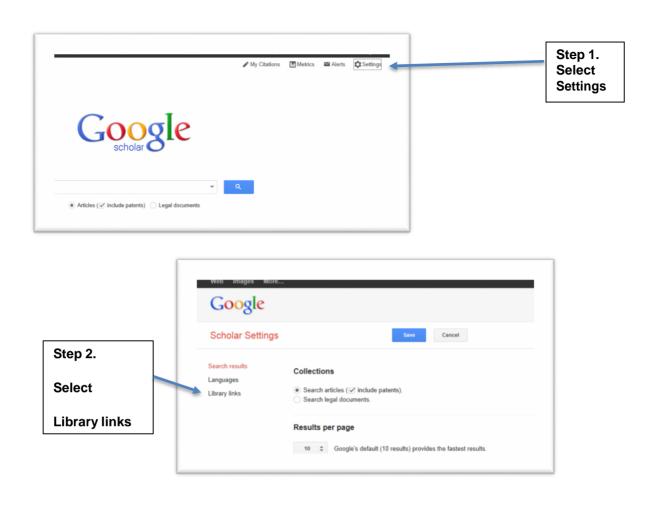
It can give some very useful results for a review of past research, but is not explicit about which bibliographic databases and journals it searches, so for a comprehensive review you would need to search the important ones for your subject individually as well, or the publishers' own websites which will contain the most up-to-date research and a full back-catalogue of past academic work.

Access your subject databases here:

www.edgehill.ac.uk/ls/subject/social-work/resources/

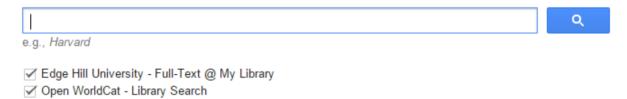
You can only access the full-text results on Google Scholar if EHU has paid a subscription for the item.

To ensure that you receive a link next to items EHU subscribes to, you need to save the university name in Google Scholar settings.



- Step 3. Type Edge Hill University Library into the search box.
- Step 4. Select / tick all options shown.

Show library access links for (choose up to five libraries):



Search Google Scholar and you will see the **Full-Text** @ **My Library** link next to content held by EHU library. Use this link to access Full Text.

Developing innovative models of practice at the interface between the NHS and child and family social work where children living at home are at risk of abuse and ...

B Luckock, J Barlow, C Brown - Child & Family Social Work, 2015 - Wiley Online Library
... The findings of this scoping review have identified a limited a number of reports of a small range of innovative models of working at the health service interface with 'children's social care', where a social work risk assessment is likely to be required to enable child safeguarding ...

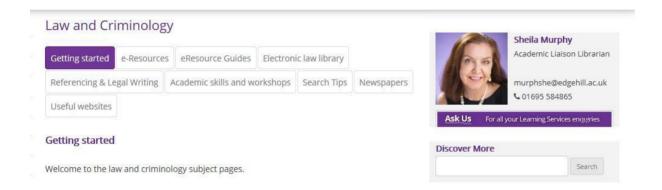
Related articles Import into RefWorks Save More

Section 5

Law Resources

How do I locate law information on the library website?

The Law and Criminology subject web pages have many resources which may be useful for Social Work students.

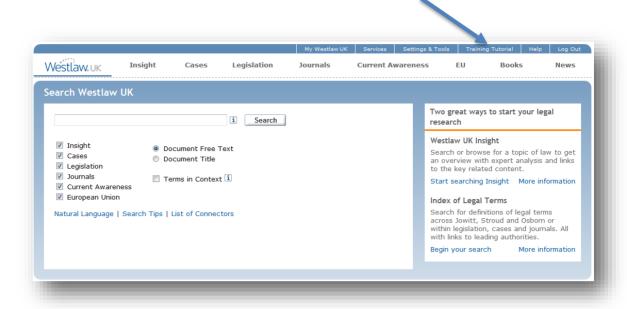


www.edgehill.ac.uk/ls/subject/law-and-criminology/

• Select the **Resources** tab and choose the **Journals and databases** link.

<u>Westlaw</u> is a very large database of legal materials from the United Kingdom, European Union, United States and other common law jurisdictions.

The database provides really useful training video's to help you to locate legislation, cases and journal articles. As social workers you may wish to see the actual legislation and statutes which underpin action.



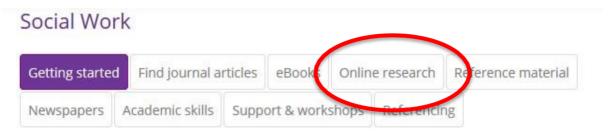


Westlaw also employ a student representative from EHU called Chanelle who is a 3rd year Law student and will answer questions about the database and how to use it. chanelle.moran-bakes@edgehill.ac.uk

Searching for information on the Internet:

As multidisciplinary students the Criminology resources and useful websites may also provide you with information and articles relevant to social policy.

Return to the **Social Work subject page** on the Learning Services website and select the tab **Online research.**



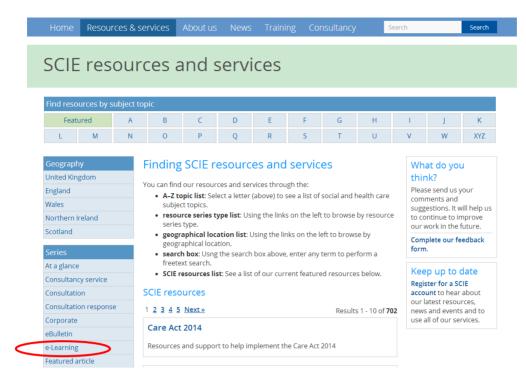
www.edgehill.ac.uk/ls/subject/social work/

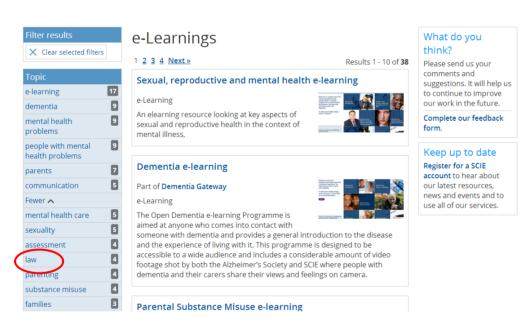
Additional Links: www.nentalhealthlaw.co.uk/, www.mentalhealthlaw.co.uk/,

<u>Social Care Institute for Excellence</u>: An independent charity working with adults, families and children's social care and social work services across the UK to improve knowledge and skills and provide information to inform decisions about social care.

Follow this link to law resources.







Section 6

Grey Literature

Grey literature includes publications such as:

- newsletters
- policy documents
- some research reports
- minutes of meetings
- professional and regulatory body requirements
- leaflets
- internally printed reports
- unpublished undergraduate and postgraduate theses and dissertations
- unpublished conference papers
- blogs, tweets, bulletin board and other social media postings

Why use Grey Literature in research?

It can be invaluable to your research: it is part of the overall evidence base and functions as an alternative source that may be used to overcome possible bias presented by published information.

It is generally not peer-reviewed so it is important to critically appraise it prior to use.

Sources of Grey Literature information:

Databases: The library subscribes to a large number of databases. In addition to journal articles and books, many of the databases also index certain types of grey literature (e.g. conference proceedings, clinical trials, dissertations, etc. Tip! Use Advanced Search.

Government Reports: Access reports via whichever government department has commissioned the report.

• Department of Health www.gov.uk/government/publications

This site contains a full listing of Command Papers and House of Commons Papers (HCPs) from 17 May 2005 to the present. A selection of papers published before 17 May 2005 can be accessed via a link on this site.

Dissertations/Theses:

<u>ProQuest Dissertations and Theses</u> (access via the library catalogue). A
comprehensive listing of theses with abstracts accepted for higher degrees by
universities in Great Britain and Ireland since 1716. Now includes links to the full text
where available.

Other Sources of Grey Literature:

- NHS Evidence www.evidence.nhs.uk/
- NHS Evidence Health Information Resources www.library.nhs.uk/
- Social Care Online <u>www.scie-socialcareonline.org.uk/</u>
- Childlink www.childlink.co.uk/
- OpenGrey: System for Information on Grey Literature in Europe. www.opengrey.eu/
- National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) www.nice.org.uk/
- COPAC: search over 70 UK and Irish academic, national & specialist library catalogues. http://copac.ac.uk/

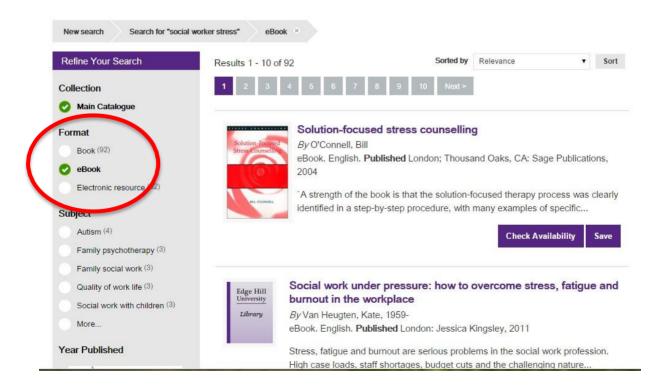
Section 7 eBooks

Edge Hill University Library provides 24 hour access to approximately **100,000** electronic books.

You can access eBooks via the library catalogue at university, at home on the train and at a time that suits you.



On the results page refine your results to eBook

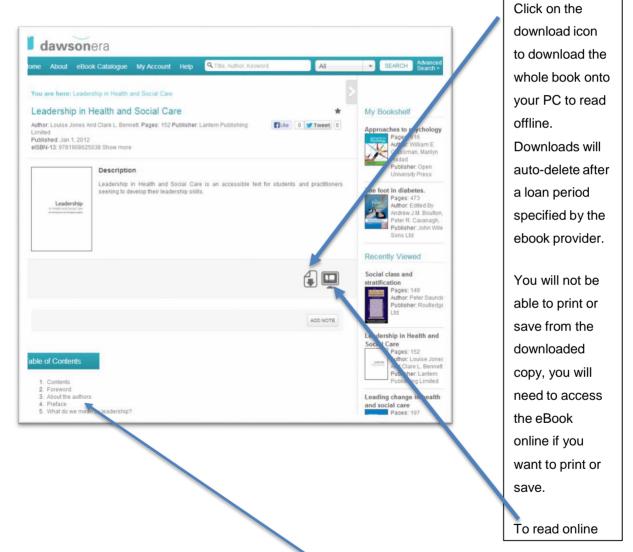


You have the option to set up a user account when using the eBook which will allow you to store searches, personal notes and bookmarks.

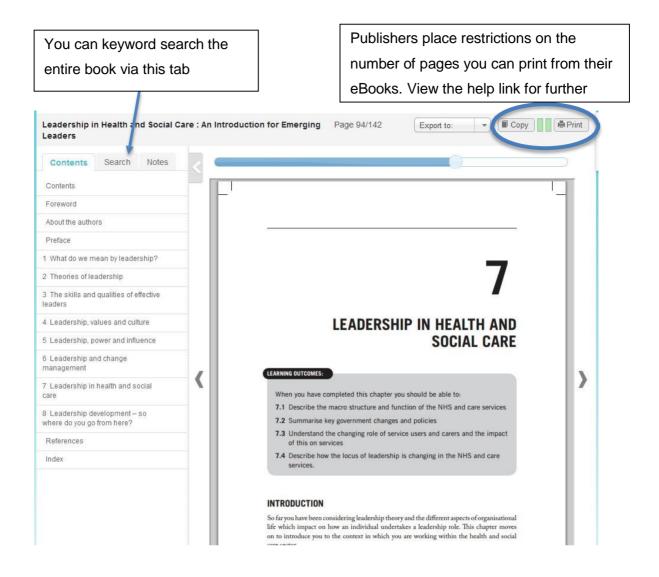
For more information on eBook access and instructions for use refer to the following link:

www.edgehill.ac.uk/ls/subject/social-work/ebooks/

Always remember to look for help links on the eBook screen to assist you in using the eBook efficiently.



You can also access the book via the <u>electronic table of contents</u> at the bottom of the screen.



Remember!

When you can't find the hard copy on the shelf you may find an eBook for the same title.

You can read eBooks on your PC, laptop, tablet, iPad or smart phone 24/7.

Section 8

Managing Information

During your research you will have to deal with a large volume of information.

It is worthwhile developing an effective information management strategy which will save both time and frustration.

Managing referencing details:

Accurately record details to reference your information sources.

Refer to the guide for Harvard Referencing available on the Learning Services web pages.

www.edgehill.ac.uk/ls/assignment-help/help-with-referencing/

The guide will assist you in determining the relevant referencing details required for different formats of information. By recording your references correctly you will be able to find the information again with minimum effort.

RefWorks:

RefWorks is a web-based bibliographic management tool that allows you to create a database of references. References can be added manually or imported from electronic journal collections and Google Scholar. You can easily produce formatted bibliographies in the referencing style of your choice, including: Harvard, APA and MHRA. An add-in to Word enables you to add references to your paper or essay as you write it.

Access further information, tutorials and a <u>guide</u> via the <u>Learning Services web pages</u> or type Refworks into the library catalogue.

Copyright:

The ethical use of information sources is an essential academic skill and one that continues throughout your life when dealing with information usage.

This website gives advice and guidance on what can and cannot be copied under English law and under license. http://library.leeds.ac.uk/copyright

Managing database searches:

When using online databases make use of electronic folders on the search screen to store searches. The contents of the folder can be saved or emailed to your email account.

Alternatively, you can set up an account.

Online databases and eBook providers also allow you to set up accounts to store your saved searches.

Look for links on the database search screen such as:

- Log in / create account
- Sign in
- My Workspace
- My Research

Email alerts:

Another useful way of keeping abreast of up and coming information, is to set up an email alert. Most databases that house journals allow you to do this.

You can set it up with your key word strategy and as soon as anything is published on that topic, an email is sent to your email account outlining the abstract of the journal in relation to any research you may be doing.

Further Help

LS provides as part of its academic writing and study skills service: 1 to 1 support for undergraduate and postgraduate research proposals, dissertations and literature reviews. The service seeks to enable students to produce written work that is focused on a specific, feasible topic as well as being structured and clearly written.

To book a one to one or for any skills query, visit the Ask desk, 1st floor, University Library, Ormskirk.

Ring 01695 584214 or email inclusiveservices@edgehill.ac.uk



Ask your questions online, anytime, anywhere! http://askus.edgehill.ac.uk/