Using Library Guides

Library Guides (sometimes called Lib Guides) are online resources created by our specialist subject librarians. Guides can provide instructions and examples relating to key information research skills, such as using Search, the university library’s main catalogue of resources, or formatting citations and references in your assignments.

There are also subject-specific guides that link to useful tools, sites, databases and resources for your specific subject area.

This information sheet helps you navigate some of the guides.

1. You can access the library guides by scrolling down the main library webpage to the ‘Resources and skills’ section
2. The **Library Guides homepage** includes several sections:

- The ‘Essential skills’ section provides links to general guides such as citing and referencing
- There’s a search box where you can search the guides for topics or keywords relating to what you need
- You can also look in the subject list to find guides created for students within each faculty.
3. Each subject area may have one or more guides available. For example, here’s the guide listing for **Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences** (MNHS)—the main resources for the faculty are in the highlighted guide, but there are a few other guides for specific purposes:

In contrast, below is the guide for the **Faculty of Arts**. Each subject area in Arts has its own guide listed on the main page, so you can access the subject directly—in this case the guide for **French Studies** is highlighted. Note that both the MNHS and Arts listings have guides for Indigenous content—Indigenous Health and Indigenous Cultures and Histories. If you were doing an assignment on this topic, you might like to look for relevant guides or resources in other subject areas, not just those listed for your faculty.
4. Click on the guide for your desired subject area or subject. Again, individual guides might look different. In general, the main navigation menu will be on the left-hand side, with different options for you to select.

Here are a few examples.

In the Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences guide, you can find some information about how to do specific things such as searching or working on a literature review. You can also find links to resources such as databases and useful sites that the subject librarian has curated for you.

Here’s what the MNHS databases page looks like – there are a lot of different, but related, subject areas, so the guide is organised using tabs:
In contrast, here’s a guide from the Design section of the Art, Design and Architecture (MADA) faculty. It still has useful sections on the left, but these are organised differently, because of the different needs of students in that area.

And here’s the Faculty of Information Technology (FIT) guide. This one has sections on the left, and also has tabbed boxes in the centre with one database in each tab for quick access. In each guide, you can just click on the database or resource name to access it.
As well as the subject-specific guides, there are others for more general subjects, such as citing and referencing:

Don’t be afraid to explore the guides for your main subject area, as well as for other related subjects. They’re a great starting point for choosing relevant databases and learning key information research skills.

Why not go and investigate a library guide now!