Using Library Resources to find information

You can find the following resources for locating information on the Wits Library Home Page

**The Library Catalogue:** gives access to all the books and journals, both print and electronic in the Wits Library System. The three most important types of search are: **Author, Title and Keyword.**

**Please Note:** When requesting books, please provide details of author, title and location of the book.

**The Databases:** are electronic tools which contain full text and abstracts of academic journal articles. These articles are scholarly works that are carefully selected from published academic sources. The library has a total of 237 electronic database subscriptions. e.g. Ebsco Host, Proquest, Science Direct, Emerald, JStor, etc. We also have specialised legal databases e.g. Juta Publication, West Law, Heinonline, My Lexis Nexis, etc.

**The Libguides:** These are electronic subject guides that give access to all library resources. Wits Librarians, in conjunction with Faculty members, compile and manage them in the respective course and subject areas. They are extremely important for students since they contain specific information relating to courses, prescribed and recommended resources, links to other websites relevant to your course work, announcements, news and other relevant information relating to scholarly reading and studies in your subject area.

**Reference Tools:** *Available in print & electronic format.*

- **Language Dictionaries -**
  - *Single language* – give the meaning of the word, synonyms and the correct spelling
  - *Dual or Multilingual* – give the translated meanings of the words in each languages covered e.g. English to French and vice versa

- **Subject Dictionaries** - give an explanation of a term e.g. Palgrave dictionary of Economics; Dictionary of legal words and phrases

- **Thesauri** - suggest broader, narrower & related terms to build up your keywords

- **Encyclopaedias** - give an overview of a concept, suggests further headings under which to search
Electronic Legal Resources: Some of the electronic databases that the Law Library subscribes to are:

- Juta online publications (SA cases, journal articles, legislation)
- My LexisNexis(SA cases, journal articles, legislation)
- SA e-publications (full text SA journal articles)
- Westlaw (international cases, journal articles, legislation)
- LexisNexis Academic (international cases, journal articles, legislation)
- Heinonline (international journal articles)

BOOKS VS JOURNALS: What is the difference?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Books</th>
<th>Journals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Once off publication</td>
<td>• Published periodically i.e. weekly, monthly, quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Comprehensive</td>
<td>• Articles are specific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• General subject</td>
<td>• Examples: Peer-reviewed journals e.g. Accountancy SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Books give fair topic coverage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOW TO IDENTIFY A JOURNAL REFERENCE

- Article reference will show the author's name, date of publication, title of article, journal title, volume number, issue number, and page numbers e.g.:


- Articles:
  - (i) appear in scholarly journals published at stated regular intervals,
  - (ii) reflect in-depth research, are more up-to-date and relevant to current issues than books which take more time to publish, &
  - (iii) are more concise and specialized than books.

HOW TO IDENTIFY A BOOK REFERENCE

- A book reference shows:
  - Author, date of publication, Title of the book, place of publication, and name of publisher - e.g.:

Plagiarism & Copyright: This is covered separately by the Scholarly Publications and Copyright Librarian, Denise Nicholson.