

UQL Cyberschool Subject Guide: My English, My Identity

Getting started

What information are you seeking? Write down key words from your assignment topic to use in your search. Make a list of keywords and synonyms you will be able to use as search terms.

Keywords	Synonyms

Now start your search for information.

Reference

If you are not sure what your topic is all about, look it up in a dictionary or encyclopedia. Start with definitions, maps, timelines or biographical snapshots, to put your topic into perspective.

Title	Location	Call Number
Encyclopedia of language and linguistics	SS&H Ref	P29 .E48 2006
An Encyclopedic dictionary of language and languages	SS&H Ref	P29.C68 1992
A Dictionary of linguistics and phonetics	SS&H Ref	P29.C7 2003
Oxford companion to the English language	SS&H Ref	PE31.O94 1996
The Cambridge grammar of the English language	SS&H Ref	PE1106 .H74 2002

Books

Books are a good starting point and may provide a lot of the information you need. Use the **Keyword** search option in the Library catalogue. You can search on words like **language culture, linguistic English or communication culture**

Tips: use a question mark (?) in a word to expand your search e.g. Wom?n will find both women and woman; use an asterisk (*) at the end of a word to expand your search e.g. cultur* will find both culture and cultural.

You can also browse the catalogue using **subject** to find **SUBJECT HEADINGS**, such as **Language and culture, communication, linguistics** or even **Biolinguistics** or browse the shelves at the **CALL NUMBERS** indicated in your research.

Now add resources you have found, using the Keywords you listed for your topic.

Title	Location	Call Number

Journals

For recent information, journal articles are often the best sources. Looking through journals in the hope of finding relevant material is time consuming. It is better to use full text databases to find articles on your topic. If your school subscribes to databases through UQL Cyberschool, you can access them at school (or home) through your Library network. See your Teacher Librarian for details and passwords.

JSTOR	JSTOR is a multidisciplinary archive of high resolution scanned scholarly journals. It is not a current issues database. Because of JSTOR's archival mission, there is a gap, from 1 to 5 years, between the most recently published journal issue and the back issues available. Subject areas covered include economics, law, history, Asian studies, Middle Eastern studies, language, literature, music, film studies, performing arts, religion and visual arts.
Humanities & Social Sciences Collection (Informit)	Covers agriculture, arts, Asian studies, business, cultural studies, education, history, indigenous studies, law, media, political science, reference, social sciences, science and technology. Content sources include peer reviewed journals, monographs and books, conference proceedings, research papers and reference materials.

Refer to the **Keywords** you listed previously to use as initial search terms. For example, to find information about specific features of **language** you could search **JSTOR**, limiting the search to articles with full text, using the phrase such as **“language culture”** in a Keyword search.

Some of the databases available to schools **for free** through your local Council Library or the State Library of Queensland are found at <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/find/articles>

Internet resources

To find specific information on the Internet relevant to your assignment search, use the right search tools.

UQL Cyberschool Internet Sites Database – contains selected websites for use in your assignments. It is searchable by keyword and by your school subject e.g. English.	http://cyberschool.library.uq.edu.au/index.phtml
A range of Internet Search Tools will help you to locate required information	http://www.library.uq.edu.au/how-to-guides/internet-web-searching

Other resources

For some topics you will need to consult specialist information sources.

Quick Reference Collection An online reference collection providing quick links to Government sites, statistics, biographies, facts, figures, definitions and dates	http://www.library.uq.edu.au/quickref/index.html
News How to Guide Media releases, the latest news and some freely available archive material.	http://www.library.uq.edu.au/how-to-guides/news-and-newspapers
UQ Library Subject Guides Get started – find books, journal articles, using databases, relevant Internet resources and specialised information in your subject area or handy hints on a specific topic.	http://www.library.uq.edu.au/findit/index.html

