



# SLU **CALM Resources**

## Academic Writing

### Finding The Information you Need

Starting your research can be a daunting task. Often the first instinct is to run to the Library to collect textbooks before they all disappear from the shelves. But before you do that, try looking closer to home. What clues and hints has your lecturer given?

For most assignments, you should

- start by concentrating on the **relevant** lectures to get a general outline of what you need to know
- read the **relevant** chapter in your textbook and select the relevant information
- do the recommended reading **relevant** to this topic in your Subject Guide
- only when you have finished the above, look for **relevant** sections of other books and journal articles

To decide what is relevant, refer to your preliminary plan. Prepare a search list/ check your reading list. Find relevant/ recommended books and articles.

As you are reading, make sure you keep all necessary Bibliographic Information for the Reference List.

As you read, you may decide to use your notetaking skills to record information and ideas to use in your essay. But be careful here; many students first get into trouble with plagiarism at the note taking stage.