

ReTerating research skills through open textbooks

A case study from University of Queensland (UQ)

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Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Queensland (UQ) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which we meet.

We pay our respects to their Ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country.

We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.

The Brisbane River pattern from *A Guidance Through Time*
by Casey Coolwell and Kyra Mancktelow.



Open education resources



OER are:



Interactive



Remixable and reusable



Encourage active learning



Benefits for students:



Decrease financial burden



Equitable access to education (SDG4)

Conditions for open textbook creation



Grant program or funding



2 levels of grants for UQ staff



Tools to create and host the textbook



Institutional Pressbook instance



Dedicated team working on the textbook



Digital learning team and Faculty Services Librarians supporting academic staff



Policies for tenure and promotion that value OER as a scholarly output



No UQ wide policy

Research essentials open textbooks



- Designed with academics to address gaps in students' research skills
- Curated and reimaged the Library's CC licenced resources

This presentation will examine *Legal research essentials* (2023) and *Music research essentials* (2024) as case studies to explore the benefits of reTerating Library content into open textbooks.

Case study 1: *Legal research essentials* (2023)

Case study 1: *Legal research essentials*

Need identified by the UQ Law School: A comprehensive resource for all program levels

Shortcomings of the Library's resources:



dispersed across many locations



required frequent updating



weren't interactive



weren't compatible with assistive tech



were limited to certain law students



consolidate Library's resources in one location



require less frequent updating



incorporate interactive elements

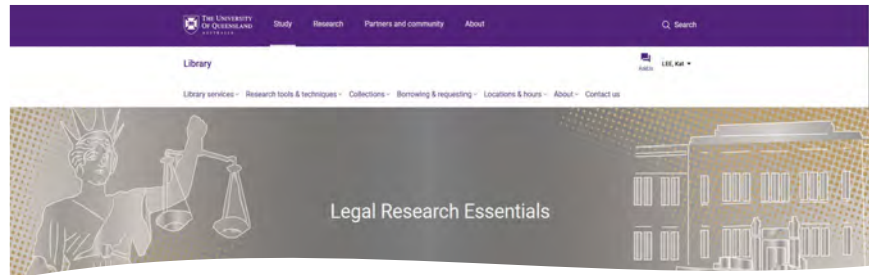


provide alternative, options for access



open to anyone

What we reTerated



Research Skills

Learn about legal research and the importance of researching in a strategic way, common types of assignments that require legal research, academic misconduct, and plagiarism.

Secondary sources

Learn about the role secondary sources play in legal research, and about the databases and search strategies you will need to use to locate them.

Case law

Learn how to locate, cite, and judge the reliability of case law assignments.

Library

Library Home | Library Guides | Subject | Home

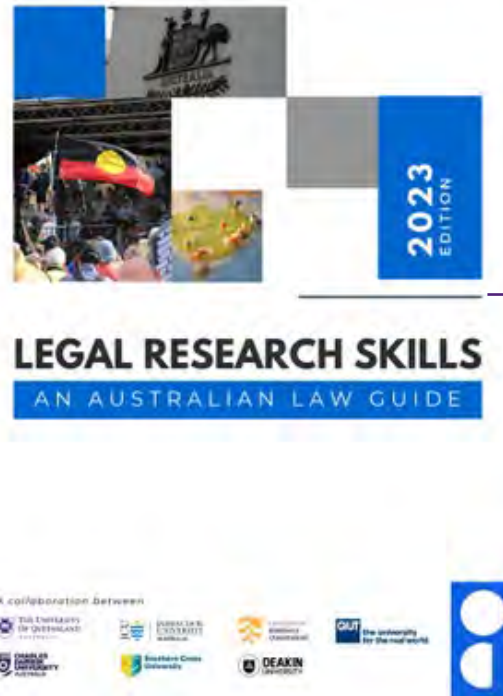
Subject guides

Access the guides

Select a subject area to see the available guides. Our librarians have selected key books, journals and databases to find articles and specialised resources for your subject.

- Business, Economics
- Engineering, Architecture, Information Technology
- Health, Behavioural Sciences
- Humanities, Arts
- Law**

Administrative law
 Comparative and foreign Law
 Constitutional law
 Contract law
 Criminal law
 Criminology
 Family law
 Intellectual property law
 International law
 Legal research guide
 Maritime law
 Migration and refugee law
 Mooting and advocacy
 Native title law
 Occupational health and safety law
 Social work and the law
 Taxation law



Benefits



Connecting students to information through **one** resource that:



- covers all aspects of **researching, writing, and referencing** their assignments



- **fulfills a need** identified by our teaching staff

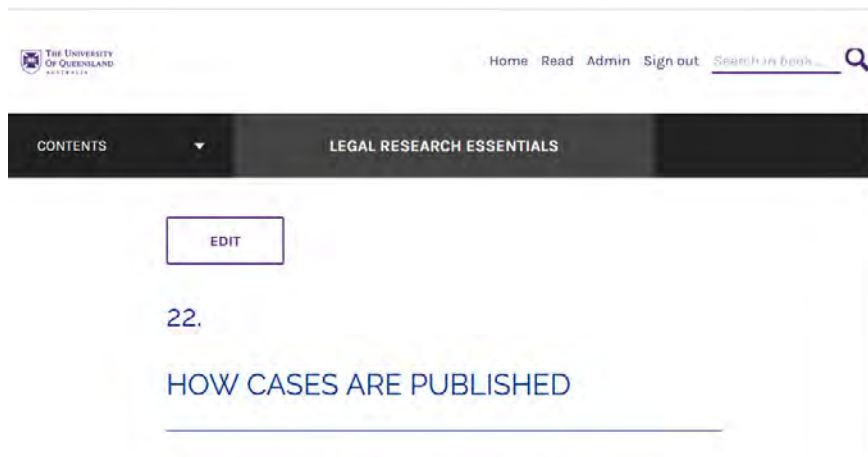


- is **promoted** to students by teaching staff and is **embedded** in their digital workflows e.g. their LMS and course readings lists

Benefits

Teaching tool to help students **build information literacy.**

Chapter 22
Legal research essentials
(2023)



It is helpful to know how judgments are published in Austr:
research in case law.

27.



REVIEW QUIZ – CASE LAW

ding
ran

Check your case law research knowledge

Take the below review quiz to test your understanding of the content covered in this section.

The headnote at the start of a reported case should not be cited or relied upon as it does not form part of the judgment.

True False

Check

© Privacy Embed Stop

Case law review quiz, *Legal research essentials*
(2023)

Reported vs unreported decisions

Unreported decisions



The decision as handed down by a Judge in the initial instance. Published on:

- Austlii
- Website of the court the matter was heard in.

Reported decisions



Decisions considered important will be published in a Report series. Cases will be reported if they:

- decide on a new area of law
- provide a new interpretation of a legal issue

Common Report series include:

- *Commonwealth Law Reports*
- *Queensland Reports*

Read: Chapter 22 *Legal Research Essentials*

Library

Fundamentals of the common law lesson slide.

Interactive hot spot demonstrating the elements of a case *Legal research essentials* (2023)

Benefits

Figure 1. Usage of *Legal research essentials* 16 February to 15 March during Foundations of the common law course

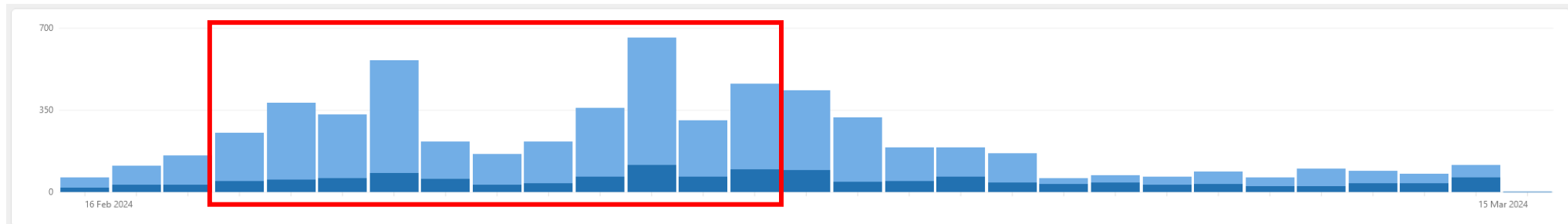


Figure 1: Bar graph showing the total visitors (dark blue) and page views (light blue) for the period 16 Feb to 15 Mar 2024. The period during which the legal research skills sessions were run (19 to 29 February) is highlighted in red.

Benefits

Building a community with staff, students and other libraries.

cutting edge... I had noticed the changes on the BB site inc [sic] the pressbook [sic] resource – all excellent – Course coordinator Fundamentals of the Common Law

Table 1. Referral sites for *Legal research essentials*

Referrers	Visitors	Page views
web.library.uq.edu.au	497	1011
Google.com	514	581
Learn.uq.edu.au	138	245
Utas.libguides.com	17	31

Table 1: Referral sites users accessed Legal research essentials from between 14 Feb to 13 Mar 2024.

Challenges and future directions

Challenges

Providing up to date content with changes to databases

Getting permission to provide screenshots of proprietary databases in interactive content.

Benchmarking the success of *Legal research essentials* against other resources.

Future directions

Expand the content relating to:

- case law and legislative materials
- structure of the Australian legal system

Include information from other Libguides such as Indigenous people and the law to support staff Indigenise the curriculum as part of UQ's RAP.

Table 2: Top 5 most viewed pages *Legal research essentials*

Page	Visitors	Views
What is case law?	533	681
What is legal research	425	602
Cover	301	500
Introduction to legislative research	204	263
Introduction to secondary sources	208	263

Table 2: The top 5 most viewed pages in Legal research essentials by number of visitors and views (14 Feb to 13 Mar 2024).

Case study 2: *Music research essentials (2024)*

Case study 2: *Music research essentials*

Identified need: A comprehensive resource to assist students with their research and assignment writing skills

Shortcomings of the Library's services:



resources dispersed across many locations



required significant staff time



not always tailored to the needs of music students



How an open textbook could help:



consolidate Library's resources in one location



reduce the burden of in-person classes



incorporate information unique to the Music School

What we reTerated



Academic Writing Guide

(Style Sheet)

Benefits



Connecting students to information through one resource that:



- **fulfills a need** identified by our teaching staff



- covers all aspects of **researching, writing, and referencing** their assignments



- is **promoted** to students by teaching staff and is **embedded** in their digital workflows, e.g. LMS and course reading list system

"Judging by the way most of the essays I marked were formatted, I would say that students did look at this before hand as there was an overall improvement in the way the essays were set out."

Course coordinator (July 2024)

"a one-stop-shop for finding and thinking about good quality academic information." "I can say to my classes 'Go to this resource and the things you need are all waiting for you there'."

Course tutor (April 2024)

Benefits

Teaching tool for building information literacy.

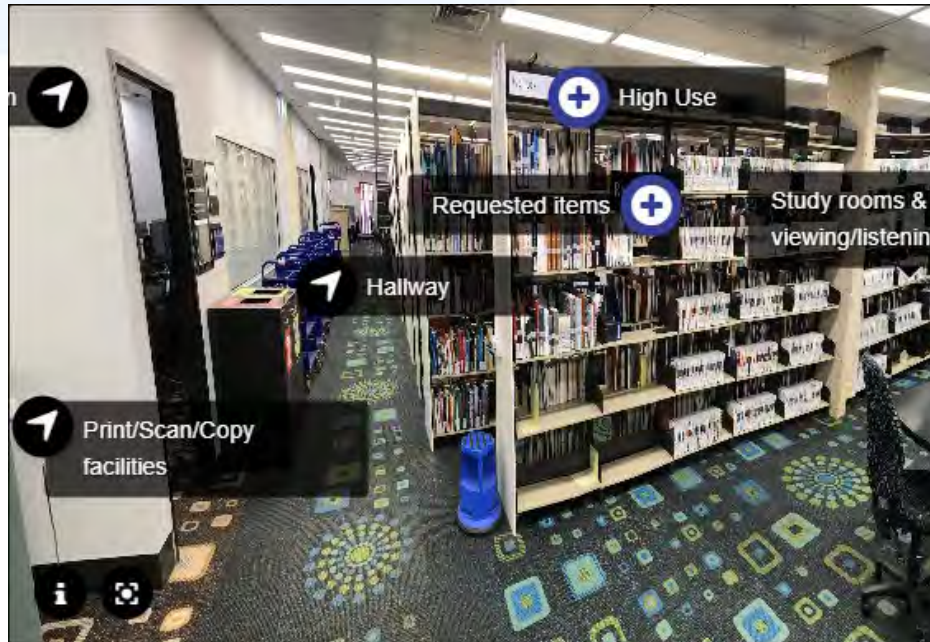
YouTube and Spotify

While [YouTube](#) and [Spotify](#) can be used to find recordings or music performances, it is not always easy to verify the authority or credentials of where the recording has come from. YouTube recordings may also breach copyright.

Consider using instead: the Library's audio, sound and video subscription databases.

Read [Chapter 16: Sound Recordings](#)

Read [Chapter 17: Video and Audio](#)



[ARMUS Virtual tour](#),
Music research essentials
(2024)

Chapter 6 Evaluating sources, *Music research essentials* (2024)

[Sample essay](#) with annotations showing good practice in formatting, referencing and overall approach to clarity and consistency. *Music research essentials* (2024)

A screenshot of a document editor showing a sample essay with numerous annotations. The essay title is "Schubert, Wagner and Liszt: Innovating Musical Genres and Merging the Borders of Music and Literature". The author is "Jane Doe (12345678) | MUSC1234 | Essay | Question 2". The annotations include:

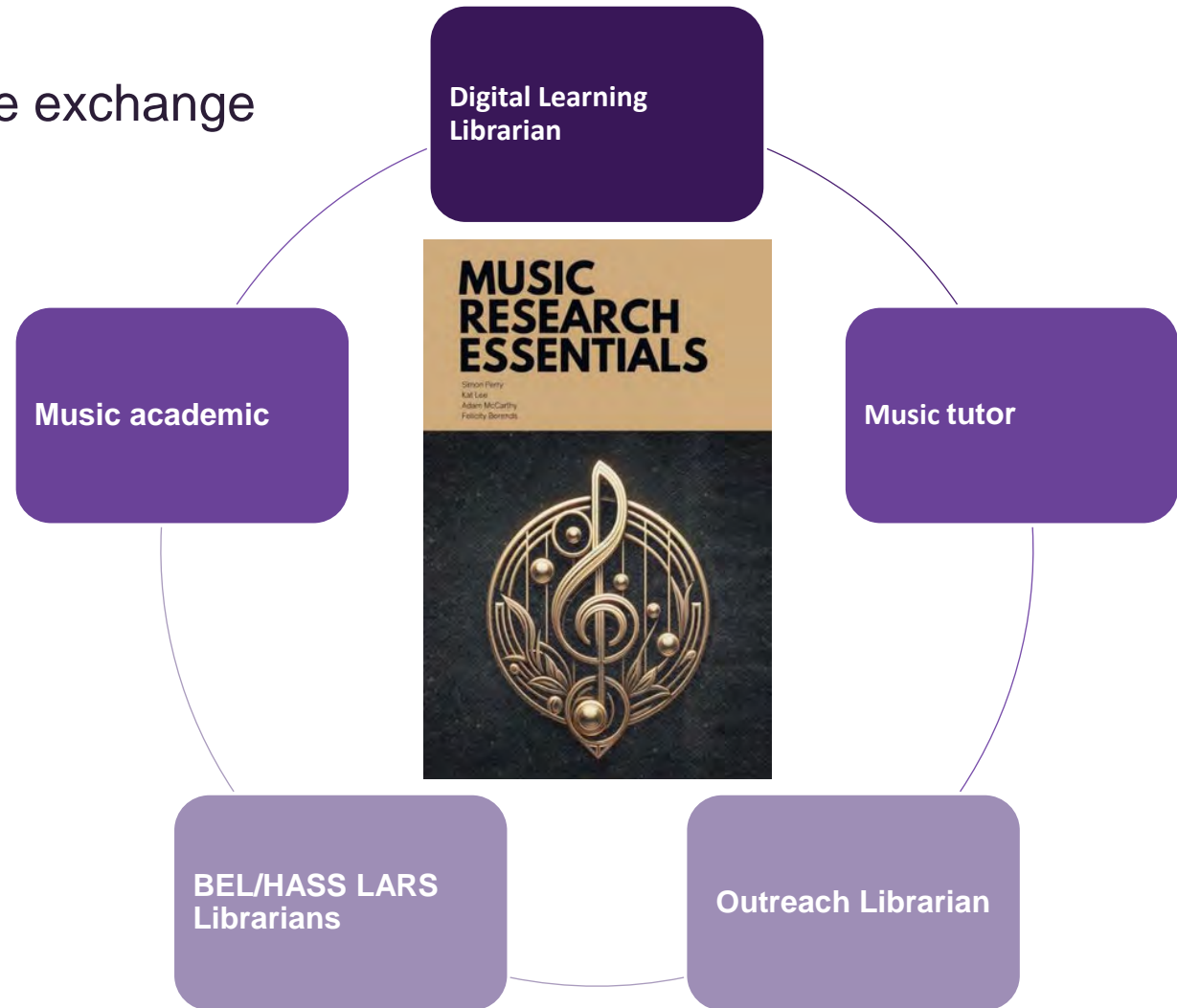
- "Indent each paragraph one tab space." pointing to the first paragraph.
- "3 cm margin (both sides)" pointing to the left and right margins.
- "Use double quotation marks for quotations (and other uses)." pointing to "Hegel's statement 'Art is the embodiment of the Geist'".
- "3 cm margin (both sides)" pointing to the right margin.
- "Standard citations include author surname, date and page number(s). Any punctuation (e.g. comma or full stop) goes after the citation." pointing to "(Plantinga 1984, 4)".
- "Use double line spacing throughout your essay." pointing to the text.
- "When a quotation is not direct (i.e. you did not find it in the original) use 'qtd. in' to make this clear." pointing to "(qtd. in Chia 2007, 400)".
- "Titles of major works go in italics." pointing to "Oper und Drama".
- "Titles of works identified by genre go in plain type (use neither italics nor quotation marks)." pointing to "Ninth Symphony".
- "Non-English terms that are sufficiently common to be adopted as de facto English terms do not need to be in italics. But keep the capitalisation and plural forms appropriate to the language (as here, 'Lieder,' not 'Lieds')." pointing to "Lied" and "Gesamtkunstwerk".
- "Non-English terms are usually put in italics. Capitalisation and plural forms should follow the original language." pointing to "Lieder".
- "Number every page, starting at 1 using the page number function. Page numbers should go in the footer. They can be centered (as here) or in a lower corner." pointing to the page number "1" in the footer.

Benefits:

Building a strong community through the exchange of ideas.

Specialist knowledge critical to the project:

- subject-matter expertise
- knowledge of the Pressbooks platform
- experience in creating H5P modules and videos
- knowledge of accessibility requirements
- experience with proofreading and editing.



Challenges and future directions

Challenges

Difficulty in ensuring that all the content was accessible, e.g.

- unable to offer the virtual tour in a screen readable format,
- should links open in the same tab (recommended for accessibility) or a new tab (recommended for usability).

Future directions

The collaborating academic plans to:

- continue adding to the Pressbook; and
- have the book adopted in both undergraduate and postgraduate courses across the School of Music.

Conclusion

UQ Library's Research essentials open textbooks would not have been possible without the support of our Law and Music academics and the excellent work of the team behind *Legal research skills: An Australian law guide (2023 edition)*.

If wanting to translate this kind of project to your own organisation you might consider:

Linking the project to your **organisation's strategic goals** around:

- providing access to high quality resources
- enhancing information literacy
- engaging with key stakeholders to mutual benefit
- using technology in innovative ways.

Drawing on **existing resources** including:

- internal and external grants/funding
- open textbooks such as UQ's *Research essentials* to provide a structure/framework
- experts within the organisation who have experience with content writing, copyright, editing and proofreading, and digital content creation.

Contact

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