

University of Adelaide Library

Podcast 3: The benefits of having a chat with your Research Librarian



Welcome to the University of Adelaide podcast series. This is podcast number three Research Librarians and how they can help you. In this podcast we will discuss the benefits of having a chat with your Research Librarian.

U: Hi there, my name is Ursula

R: ... and I'm Rebecca... and we're two staff members at the Barr Smith Library.

U: today we're going to have a chat about Research Librarians, and how they can make your life a whole lot easier!

R OK... so say I'm a Honours student and my broad thesis topic is "body image in the modern media". How can a Research Librarian help me?

U: A Research Librarian can help you in a number of ways. By now you've probably already looking in Google, and the library catalogue. But for a topic like this, you would definitely want to look in library databases. And here's where it gets tricky, as there are different databases that specialise in psychology and in media studies, and you would want to look in both. You might also be interested in finding Australian materials, or in finding newspaper articles. Talking to a Research Librarian, you'll get recommendations on the most useful resources, as well as those which are less obvious, but might have just what you're looking for.

You may also be having trouble finding the right information – either getting way too much, or not enough, or you may have reached the dreaded dead-end. A RL can help you with working out the best ways of searching, and with breaking down your topic.

R: Ok, so what if I'm not an Honours student – what if I'm a 1st or 2nd year student and am having trouble with my essay or assignment? Can someone help me?

U. Yes – definitely! Just get in contact with your Research Librarian or ask at the Research Help desk. We always like hearing about what you're looking at, and helping you find the right information.

R: ... but so I've used all the great library resources, and found a book and a journal article that I'd like to look at, but the library doesn't seem to have them. Do Research Librarians have magical powers to make these appear before my very eyes?

U: Yes... although it's known in library-land as Document delivery. By chatting to a Research Librarian you can find out about how to get access to stuff not held in the Library, so that you don't miss out on that crucial perspective.

R: So I've worked with my Research Librarian and found some great articles and books. Now its time to write my thesis and I have a whole lot of quotes but no references! Is there a better way of keeping track of them so that I won't go insane? Can a Research Librarian help?

U: It just so happens, that we can. All University of Adelaide students have access to EndNote, and a Research Librarian can help you take advantage of all the time-saving features that EndNote has to offer. The last thing you want to be doing is spending hours reformatting your reference list or bibliography... or trying to remember where you wrote down the reference for that excellent quote. EndNote can help you with this, and a Reference Librarian can help you with Endnote.

R... so you're telling me that a Research Librarian can help me with finding the right resources, doing a good search that lets me find the information I need, and, can also help me with keeping track of my references?

U: Yup! That's right. We're a helpful lot. We're even more helpful when there's chocolate involved. Each subject area has its own Research Librarian – you can find out who your very own Research Librarian is by checking the library website or asking at the information desk.

R: Thanks for listening. See you next time!

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