How we support local schools

- A level students can join the library
  - Reference only
  - Outside exam periods
  - Heavily used – 2000 per annum
- Teachers can join the library
  - Limited borrowing rights
- Taught A level research skills session (running for 12 years)
  - Evaluating resources
  - Plagiarism
  - Referencing
  - Finding resources
  - Time to research
- Sixth form study skills website
  - Libraries, finding resources, evaluating resources, plagiarism, referencing, academic writing and have a go!
Sixth Form Study Skills Website

• A website aimed at A level students focussing upon transferable skills- information literacy and academic writing
• Specifically written to meet needs of EPQ syllabus, and History, English, etc.
• Widening Participation agenda
• Requested from local teachers to support our highly successful library outreach work
• Support for teachers
• Go to for A level students
• Provide resources to use in our IL teaching sessions
• Reduce the need for taught sessions
Overall Criteria

• Clear purpose and objective e.g. EPQ syllabus
• Separate web address
• Fully responsive website for desktop, phone, tablet
• Accessibility
• Market research
• Clean and clear design
• Light touch
• ‘retro’ feel
• Professional – e.g. professionally drawn cartoons, web designer
• If we value it, they value it
• Representing Newcastle University
• Varied methodologies to meet learners needs
## Methodology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Spoke to teachers, students, undergrads and school librarians. Used our evaluations from teaching and outreach work. What else is available online?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>Developed resources individually. Stakeholders: library focus group, local schools (teacher, librarian &amp; Head of sixth form &amp; A level students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock up</td>
<td>Conducted market research with teachers and A level students from 6 local schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>Collaborative creation between myself and web designer. Constant review and feedback to stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Google analytics. Teaching sessions. Conversations with stakeholders and other teachers/students. Emails</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Design of website

Version 1

Version 2

Final Version
Teaching Resources

- Light Touch
- 2 minute activities maximum
- Mix of VAK
- Dip in and out
- Online resources with option to download for use in classroom as face to face resource

Typical Example – Academic Writing
Specific Examples

Evaluating Resources
• Diamond Ranking
• High Score Wins

Dewey Decimal
• Factual
• Game

• Plagiarism and Referencing
• Factual
• Video
• Quiz
Diamond Ranking

Diamond Rank
Use the ranking grid to arrange the sources in order of what you think is the most important to the least important when researching an essay.

- YouTube
- Books
- Websites
- Documentaries
- Wikipedia
- Journals
- Facebook
- Images
- Newspapers

Diamond Rank
Use the ranking grid to arrange the sources in order of what you think is the most important to the least important when researching an essay.

most important

least important
High Score Wins

• Play the game
• Learn the meaning
• Use vocabulary
• Understand rating varies
• Create your own game
• Give own scores
• Compare with rest of class – reinforce sliding scale of value of resources depending upon research

‘I loved that game! Its great ...It looks like something I could use ...
’- Academic Support Librarian
**Dewey Decimal**

- Factual – need to learn the facts!

- Game to reinforce and test learning

“A colleague has noticed that you have a nice little animation game on Dewey which has been created under Creative Commons, and she would love to adapt it for our Art & Design students here.” University Academic
Plagiarism and Referencing

• Factual – ability to go to when needed

• Video – light touch, immediate buy-in, i.e. why they need to know it!

• Quiz – non-threatening, specific examples (don’t know everything!)
Evaluation and Feedback

“Your website on study skills is fantastic and I would love to use your material on plagiarism and referencing in our school planner”, LRC manager, Worcestershire

“Our students have found the website incredibly helpful. It is easy to navigate and suitable for students of all abilities to access. The site is informative and engaging….Our students have found it particularly helpful to increase their independence as they embark on their EPQ….it has everything they need in order to develop their information literacy and ensure that their projects are well researched and that sources are critically evaluated and referenced… The website is a superb tool and I would thoroughly recommend it to both staff and students.” EPQ Co-Ordinator, Doncaster

“I’ve just started as a secondary school librarian and I am very keen to get the sixth form up to scratch with study skills. With this, I would like to put some hints and tips on our website and was wondering if I could use your Wiki video for reference here or just add a link to your page?” School Librarian
Judge’s Comments

This resource approaches information literacy skills in a light-touch and engaging way, appropriate to the audience. The fact that it's also being used by university students demonstrates its wide appeal.

Professionally produced, snappy, fun, bite-size chunks. Invites further exploration. I like the use of games as a teaching tool, and that resources can be easily downloaded, repurposed or embedded. Bubble game was addictive. Could the searching section be made a bit more interesting I wonder?

Makes use of other resources (eg videos) to cover some areas, eg wikipedia, plagiarism. Takes a variety of approaches to providing info. Focuses on supporting prospective students, building links between the 6th forms and the uni
Google Analytics

- Difficult to tell but potentially used by teachers and students – term time

- Average 200 daily visitors over last year
Research skills sessions

- Developed in response to teacher request
- Predominantly EPQ, History and English
- 80% repeat visits
- Large geographical area
- Fully booked – traffic light system
  2000 visits per annum
  80 school visits per annum
- Say the same thing as teachers/librarians but University saying it!

![Comparison of School visits by month between 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19](chart.png)
Research skills sessions

- **Penguins!**
- Make them realise they don’t know everything and build learning up again
- Give them the tools but be realistic that they will only use them when needed
- Chunk activities
  - video
  - text
  - games
  - group work
- Be clear about objectives and why they need this session
- Research time and access to online resources
- They are Newcastle University students for the day!
Evaluation and Feedback

“It is a great opportunity for the students to use top facilities and get research done. The session really helps them to develop skills necessary for the EPQ.” EPQ co-ordinator

“We decided to return because we believe that the study skills session is fantastic for our A-level students and helps to equip them with the knowledge that they need to complete their A-level coursework.” English Teacher

“Your website for the EPQ is excellent. We wanted to improve our students experience of university libraries and ensure they had superb access to resources and a far better understanding of analysis - which they certainly came away with! Thank you!” EPQ Co-ordinator
Contact Details

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