Step 8

How do I use my research?

Reviewing your plan

Now that you have finished looking for the material for your assignment it is worth taking a second look at your plan of approach, as you may want to change it.

Ask yourself the following questions:
  - Have I got enough information to support my assignment’s arguments?
  - Is the context and scope of the question still the same, or has the research I have found made me want to change these?
  - Do I want to change the angle or the pitch of my assignment?

Research can often change the way you look at things and it is worth addressing these issues at this stage rather than midway through your assignment. When you have done this you may want to write a more formal plan or structure for your assignment, which details the main areas that you are going to cover.

Review your notes

When you have reviewed your plan and decided the approach you are going to take with your assignment you should review the notes you took while doing your research to make sure that you have enough information to answer the question.

You may want to go back to some of the material and read it in more depth - this is where having made a careful note of the source will be very useful! You may need to expand your notes or even discard some of your research if you realise it is not as useful as you originally thought.

Referencing and Citing

Advice on referencing can be found in the Library Guide for your subject: libguides.swansea.ac.uk.
How to avoid plagiarism

You need to be aware of plagiarism as you can lose marks or even be disciplined for plagiarising.

Firstly, what is plagiarism? It is when you give the impression that somebody else’s work is your own. If done intentionally this could be classed as stealing. However, you can accidentally plagiarise because you have not made accurate details of references when note taking and hence cannot provide accurate references within your assignment, or alternatively not quoting other people’s work correctly within your assignment. If you are not sure how to do this refer to the guidance given for your referencing method.