Overview - Week 1

- Definition of databases
- Activity: example of how an article is indexed in different databases
- Introduction to Informit databases
- Activity: searching on your own assignment topic
Overview - Week 2

• Review of the first session
• Introduction to a full text database - Expanded Academic Index
• Introduction to searching the world wide web - using the search engine Google
• Activity: searching on your topic
Databases

• **Database** = any large volume of information stored in a computer, and organised in categories to facilitate retrieval.
Types of Databases

• Structured

• Unstructured
Structured Databases

• **Advantages**
  – Subject headings
  – Searchable fields
  – Evaluated

• **Disadvantages**
  – Does not allow natural language searching

• **Example:** APAIS, Library catalogue
Structured Database formats

• Index
• Abstract
• Full-text
Index databases

• **Usually include**: 
  – author and title
  – year
  – journal title, volume, year and pages / book title, publisher and place of publication
  – subject headings

• **Examples**: 
  – Australian Public Affairs Information Service - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Subset (APAIS- ATSIS) on Informit
  – Library catalogue
  – Morning Bulletin Index
Abstract databases

• Includes all the information recorded in an index database, plus a summary or abstract of the item / article

• Will often provide a link to full text in another database

• Examples:
  – Australian Heritage Bibliography (AHB) on Informit
  – Scopus
Full-text databases

- These include all the information contained in an abstract database, as well as the full-text of the article

- Examples:
  - Expanded Academic Index on Infotrac
  - Australian Public Affairs Full text (APA-FT) on Informit
Unstructured Databases

• Advantages
  – allows natural language searching
  – access to a wide range of resources

• Disadvantages
  – No evaluation
  – Information is not organised/structured

• Example: websites