BE WHAT **YOU** WANT TO BE

GEOG 11024 Library Tutorial
Searching Databases

CRICOS PROVIDER CODES: QLD 00219C, NSW 01315F, VIC 01624D

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**