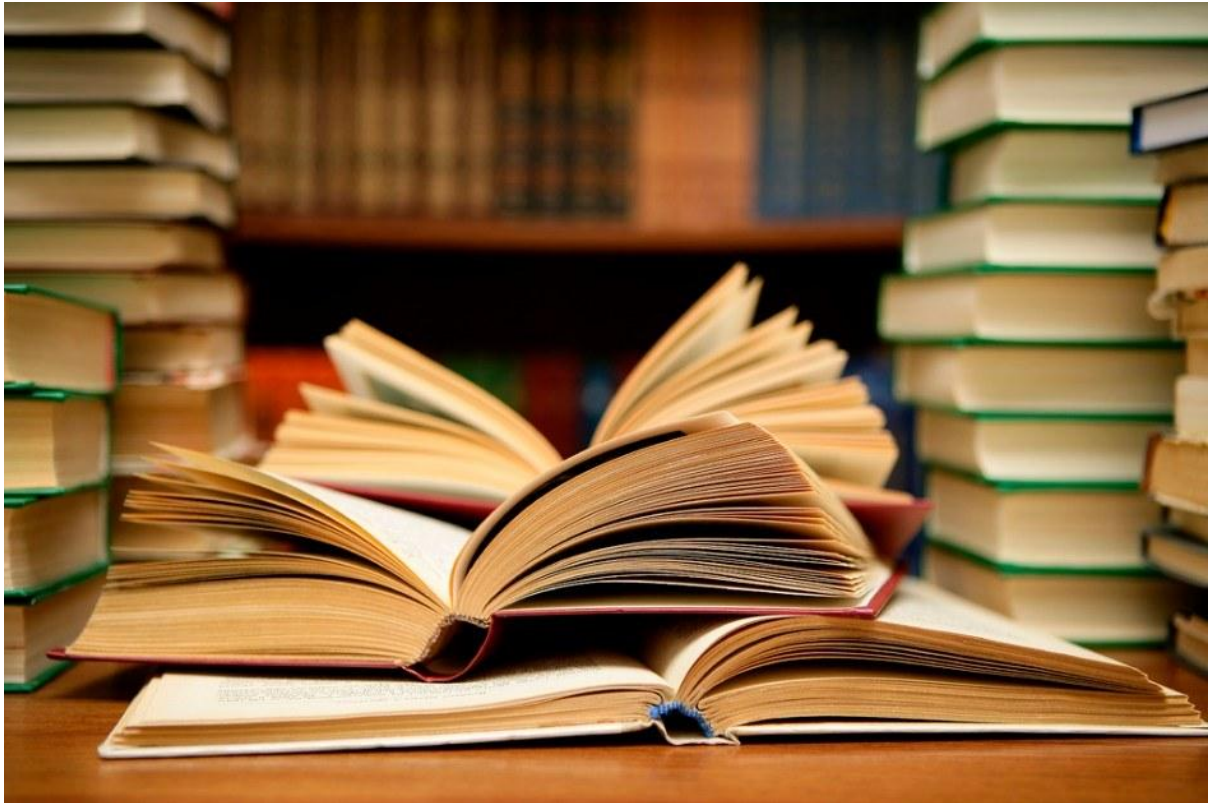




Using sources

All academic writing builds on the work of other writers and researchers. You should research the field thoroughly so that your assignment has a solid scholarly foundation.

To establish the academic merit of your work you will need to either quote or paraphrase material from other sources.

First, ask yourself whether the *precise words* of the original source are important, or is it more important to engage with the *underlying meaning*.

If the original words are important, **quote the source**. If you want to focus on the meaning, **paraphrase** instead.

You can find more information about how to quote and paraphrase in our academic skills resources.

Note that paraphrasing is common in all fields, and quoting is more common in some disciplines and types of assignment than others: it may play a very important role in a research essay, for example; or it might not appear at all in a laboratory report. You can find more information on paraphrasing and using sources in scientific writing in our academic skills resources for science.

If you are not sure whether quoting is suitable in your field or assignment, check with your tutor or Unit Coordinator.

Referencing

Regardless of whether you are quoting or paraphrasing, remember to cite your sources.

Key points on referencing

- Disciplines, journals and unit coordinators have preferred referencing styles, so make sure to read the instructions carefully.
- If a citation style has not been specified, pick one and use it consistently.
- If you would like help with referencing, contact the [UWA India Library](#) to get started.