

Chapter 13: Using Other Sources of Information

Extra questions

1. You have been asked to research the importance of your local park. How are you going to make a start?
2. What information would you expect to find about shopping on the Internet?
3. Find out a few surprising facts about your nearest city.
4. Show how you might brainstorm a few ideas about home decoration.
5. Produce a relevance tree to help you study a topic like energy sources.
6. Find the most popular names for boys and girls in England and Wales in the last three years.
7. Browse through a few sources of information to develop a topic title on business skills.
8. Find one interesting website on safety at sea

Extra answers

1. You must stay aware of the focus given to any research. In this case it is the importance of the local park. So the facts and figures need to relate to importance and this can only be meaningful in terms of people. The chances are that research already exists. Ask at your local library or council offices. You may find user groups e.g. 'Friends of

2. There is no doubt about the mass of data you are likely to find about shopping on the Internet. You will need to be clear whether it is just facts and figures you want about shopping or whether you want to know more about actually shopping. The key to this type of search is having a clear focus for the research and being selective in what you look at.

3. Again no shortage of information. Try the book search – guidebooks are often very good. You could also visit Tourist Information. See what you get.

4. The sort of ideas that an individual or group might come up with on home decoration:

<i>shopping at DIY stores</i>		<i>changing rooms</i>	<i>changing colours</i>
<i>hobby</i>	<i>pastime</i>	<i>something new</i>	<i>painting</i>
<i>adds value to home</i>	<i>gives character</i>	<i>impress your friends</i>	<i>stress your family</i>
<i>prove your skills</i>	<i>express your personality</i>		<i>add colour</i>
<i>brighten up your life</i>	<i>make a statement</i>	<i>add some features</i>	<i>save money</i>

and so on.

You should go for the quantity of ideas. You can always reject them later. Generally we would welcome 100 or more ideas. In this case we can see some themes emerging i.e. making the home difference and adding value

5. In this case you can look at the main sources of energy e.g. fossil fuel, nuclear, renewable etc. You can then look at the important issues within each of these sources.

6. If you go to www.statistics.gov.uk you will find the most popular names:

Girls:

	2001	2002	2003
1	Chloe	Chloe	Emily
2	Emily	Emily	Ellie
3	Megan	Jessica	Chloe

Boys:

	2001	2002	2003
1	Jack	Jack	Jack
2	Thomas	Joshua	Joshua
3	Joshua	Thomas	Thomas

7. A topic like business skills is not new. Your tutors may recommend reading. A book like 'The Business Student's Handbook *Developing Transferable Skills*' might be a good place to start. As you build a knowledge of a topic area, it will be easier to develop possible titles. You can consider how a particular concept or theory applies to a situation you are aware of. Numeracy is seen as an important business skill (and hopefully your numerical skills will be improved by access to this website). You could research whether numeracy is a skill referred to by potential employers.

8. We have selected the following two websites for illustrative purposes because they are accepted sources of authoritative information:

www.lifeguards.org.uk does provide useful information and will direct you to a second site called 'Beach Lifeguards. Here you will find 'Facts and Figures' like 7819 people aided in 2003. In addition you can play the Beach Safety Game.

www.rva.org.uk provides a range of information about the sea include tide and weather information. The site provides a search box. If you search on 'safety at sea' you will be given some 205 references (January 2004).