

The 'Search' in 'Research'

Searching for Information is one of the first steps involved in undertaking research. This process is often referred to as 'searching the literature' or more simply 'literature searching'. This process can occur in a number of ways, but increasingly, the process begins by using databases, such as **SocIndex** and **Academic Search Complete**; two of the EBSCO databases available to Tusla staff, through our Open Athens user names and passwords. The above are not the only ones; we have access to others as well through the Tusla Research Centre web pages, which you can find [here](#).

Databases such as these can be either fairly broad in scope or in some cases subject specific. In either case they contain thousands of citations, as well as in some cases, links to the full text of the citations. Databases, such as these, also offer a variety of very powerful searching tools, such as, ***searching by keyword and by subject, expanding and limiting search results, sharing search results by e-mail, storing results in a search folder, formatting and exporting to bibliographic reference manager software*** and many more.

For the last two years, the National Research Office, in co-operation with EBSCO Information Services, has organised two days of training, open and freely available to all Tusla staff nationally, in learning how to search and organise the information within electronic databases. While the two EBSCO databases listed above, are the training ground for learning these skills, the skills learnt within these can be applied to all literature searching databases, the full text electronic journals we subscribe to, as well as (with further practice and knowledge) internet search engines such as Google (and others!).

The first of the above sessions (on Basic Searching Skills) took place last week on **Weds. March 3rd**. The second on **Advanced Searching Skills** will take place on **Thurs. March 18th** from 11am -12.30pm (not too early given the day or night before!). You will need good basic searching skills to take part in this but if you think you are ready and want to take part – e-mail us at open.athens@tusla.ie and we will see that you receive an invitation to join the session.

Recordings/Tutorials from last year's sessions can be accessed via the following [link](#). Over the next few weeks, the recordings from this year's sessions (which are slightly more advanced than last year) will also be placed on this page.