Teacher Training Guide

Maximising Explore for teaching and learning

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Introduction

[Informit Explore](#) is an Australian-centric research database that provides curated content and learning materials across a broad range of subjects. Designed for educators and learners, Informit Explore encourages critical thinking, combats misinformation, and supports the development of lifelong digital literacy skills.

The platform's wealth of resources can be effectively integrated into secondary teaching, helping students engage with Australian issues and topics via curated collections of articles, videos, and supporting content, while also providing valuable resources for teachers preparing lessons and assessment tasks.

This guide for secondary teachers covers the subject area collections available on Explore and describes how teachers can use Explore to enhance learning across curriculum areas with key research components.
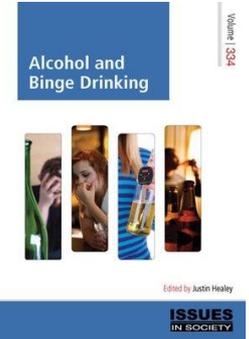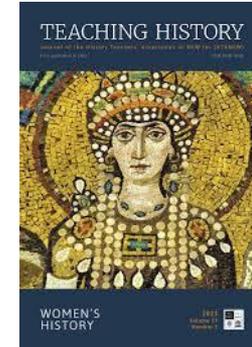
Explore's content: Text

Explore's content is diverse
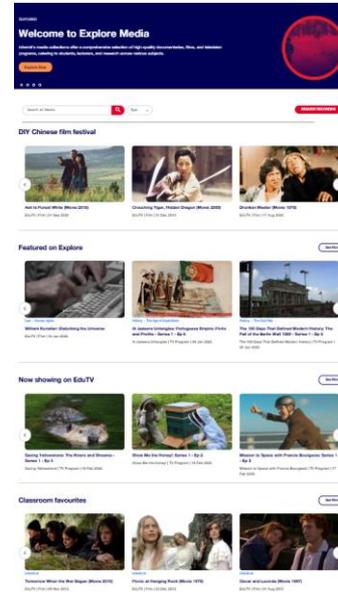and drawn predominantly from Australian publishers, including:

- **Journal articles** from peer-reviewed academic journals in Australia and New Zealand, like the _Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues_, which you can't access anywhere else.

- **Literary journals**, which include creative writing and more general interest articles about writing, the publishing industry, and pop culture, like _Meanjin_.

- **Teacher-focused journals** that feature articles on teaching practice and sample lesson plans, like _Teaching History_, published by the History Teachers' Association of NSW.

- **Association/society journals**, which feature discipline-based articles and news bulletins targeting professionals in that area, like the International Journal of Contemporary Intelligence Issues

- Handpicked educational **book series**, like the _Issues in Society_ series.

Explore's content: Video

- **Curated video clips** from television news programs across Australia, updated daily.

- **Curated recordings of films and television programs** from Australian broadcasters, also updated daily.

- **Interactive screen guides** that provide screen analysis of popular films and television series, alongside classroom activities and questions, curated clips, and related articles and videos on Informit.
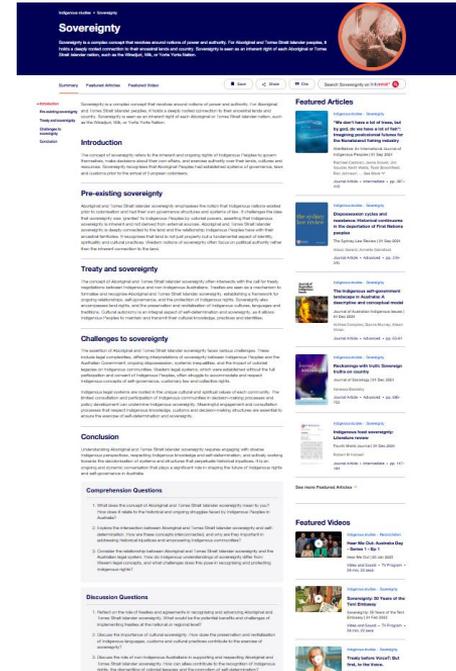
Explore's subjects and topic collections

As of February 2026, there are **14 subject area collections** on Explore with plans to progressively expand coverage across key learning areas. Explore's subject pages feature curated highlights from the broader database, with handpicked articles and videos mapped to narrower topic areas. These pages are designed to help new users begin their research efficiently.

Each topic page on Explore is mapped to strands and content descriptors from the Australian Curriculum, alongside cross-curriculum priorities where relevant. A single topic may relate to multiple learning areas.

Topic pages can be used as ready-made lesson activities, flipped classroom resources, or homework tasks. They include:

- a topic overview
- reflection questions
- curated resources
- a pre-formatted search

English

Explore subjects: <u>Literature</u>, <u>Society</u>, <u>Indigenous Studies</u>, <u>Media and Popular Culture</u>

- Support students exploring specific Australian writers, First Nations literature, or contemporary storytelling trends featured in **literary journals.**
- Use articles on creative writing in literary journals as **prompts for student writing projects.**
- If you have an Explore Media or TVNews subscription, prompt Sstudents could be promptedto analyse and discuss **representations of identity, gender, and race in Australian media**, if you have a TVNews subscription.
- If you have an Explore Media subscription, use screen guides for in-depth, classroom-ready film analysis of top curriculum-aligned programs.

The Arts

Explore subjects: <u>The Arts</u>, <u>Media and Popular Culture</u>

- Students can **explore articles on contemporary art movements, influential artists, or global exhibitions**, providing inspiration for their own creative projects or classroom discussions.
- Articles on **historical art movements** (e.g., Impressionism, Surrealism) can be used to deepen students' understanding of how art reflects cultural, social, and political contexts over time.
- Teachers can prompt students to research influential figures in the performing arts, such as actors, musicians, or choreographers, to understand their impact on the development of their respective art forms.

Health and Physical Education

Explore subjects: Psychology and Mental Health, Health,

- Assign students readings on **Australia's public health system** and explore current **debates on healthcare access and reform**.
- Use articles in class to **debate issues** such as body image in media, or the mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Promote mental health literacy** by encouraging students to explore articles on prevention strategies and treatment options for common conditions like anxiety and depression.

Technologies

Explore subject: Technology

- Students explore **current trends in technology**, such as 3D printing or coding, and use this information to inform hands-on classroom projects or design challenges.
- Incorporate articles on the impact of emerging technologies, like AI or automation, into lessons on **ethical decision-making or debates** on how these technologies affect industries and jobs.
- Use Explore to find **case studies of technology applications in real-world scenarios**, which can then be used to guide problem-solving tasks or design projects in areas like sustainable technology or user-centred design.

Science

Explore subjects: Sustainability and the Environment; Science *Coming soon

- Students can explore the latest research on environmental issues, such as climate change, renewable energy, or biodiversity, and use this information **in classroom debates or projects.**
- For practical activities, students can **explore how scientific principles are applied in various industries, from pharmaceuticals to renewable energy**, helping them connect classroom learning with real-world applications.

Humanities and Social Sciences

Explore subjects: History, Society, Indigenous Studies, Business and Economics, Media and Popular Culture, Politics,

- Assign students **key historical events to research and present on**, like the Mabo decision, or Australia's role in the World Wars and the Vietnam War.
- Host **Classroom debates** on issues such as reconciliation, sovereignty, and land rights, informed by Explore topic pages.
- **Compare different perspectives on historical events**, encouraging students to critically evaluate historical narratives.
- For civics education, discuss in class the role of citizens in a democracy, with **supporting case studies of social movements and changes in policy sourced from Explore.**

Legal Studies

Explore subjects: [Law](), [Politics](), [Society](), [Indigenous Studies](), [Business and Economics](), [Media and Popular Culture]()

- Students can explore **current legal cases and issues in a classroom debate**, such as the rights of Indigenous Australians, gender equality, or climate justice.
- **Articles on landmark legal decisions** (e.g., the Mabo decision, Native Title) could be used to engage students in mock trials or debates.
- Students could be prompted to **research aspects of Australian law**, including the family law system, criminal justice, and human rights law.

Psychology

Explore subjects: [Psychology and Mental Health](), [Health](), [Society]()

Students could be **assigned case studies** on mental health issues affecting Australian youth or community psychology.
Explore resources could be used to discuss controversial psychological topics, such as the impact of social media on mental health.

Media

Explore subject: Media and Popular Culture

- Prescribed films sourced from the Explore Media add-on can be used in-class or viewed at home.
- Use screen guides for in-class film analysis activities and **film analysis articles** could be used for classroom discussion, assigned as homework, or as a source in an assignment.

Senior secondary

Explore subjects: Business and Economics, Society, Law, Politics

- Students could be assigned case studies on economic issues to review and provide insights on.
- Students could be assigned articles covering specific government policies related to key economic issues and analyse their effectiveness.

Classroom use cases

Explore provides an effective entry point into research and streamlines access to curated, curriculum-relevant resources for secondary students. It highlights the breadth of high-quality published content available on Informit while encouraging discovery beyond the open web.

Here are five major ways that teachers are using Explore in secondary schools, with both students and teachers benefiting from the platform.

Research assignments

Students working on research tasks have access to millions of Australian peer-reviewed articles across learning areas, alongside curated collections and pre-formatted searches that help them get started quickly.

Explore's topic pages provide authoritative introductions to complex issues and can also be cited in student assignments. To maximise the value of your Explore subscription, consider embedding it into assessment design (for example, requiring at least one peer-reviewed source from Informit).

Information literacy

Explore can be used to explicitly teach information literacy skills. Topic pages and pre-formatted searches provide useful demonstrations of database searching and effective query construction.

Teachers can model good practice by modifying the pre-formatted search using the Edit search function and by applying filters strategically.

Classroom learning

Beyond research tasks, Explore topic briefs can support a wide range of classroom activities. For example, Explore could be used for students preparing for a classroom debate on a controversial issue like 'vaping', which can be approached from a health perspective, a societal view, or a legal perspective, depending on the context. Explore topic briefs provide curated sources from law journals (*Law Society Journal*), medical journals (*Australian Journal of Pharmacy*), and political newspapers (*Green Left*) within the Legal studies, Health and Politics subject collections. Students could be assigned specific case studies to review and provide insights or asked to evaluate government policies.

Lesson planning

For teachers, Explore is a valuable tool for lesson planning. Explore's topic briefs can be used to inform an effective 60–90-minute lesson on a particular issue, with reflection questions and curriculum links included on all pages. Alternatively, teachers can search for content or browse the curated collections for articles to incorporate into a lesson plan or find sample lesson plans and pedagogical advice in Informit's teacher association journals.
For example, *Teaching History* includes a mix of historical analysis and teaching practice tips for history teachers. This article from Teaching History[1] provides a framework for teaching history using popular films like *Oppenheimer*.

Professional development

Teachers can use Explore to stay current with research in both their discipline and teaching practice.
For example, the *Australian Journal of Education* is a top source for the latest in recent educational research.

Our forthcoming Education collection also collates the latest research on key areas of teaching practice.

Search strategies

There are four key ways to search on Explore:

Browse and discover

If you are looking for inspiration rather than a specific topic, scroll down the home page to check out the resources highlighted on the 'Home' and 'Media' pages. Here, you'll find our top picks, trending articles and videos, latest additions, classroom favourites and other sample collections.

From within a narrower topic, select "See More Featured Articles" to look at more curated resources on the topic

Trending Publications

See all Public

Business and economics
The Journal of Australian Political Economy

Business and economics
Company Director

Business and economics
AQ - Australian Quarterly

Business and economics
New Zealand Journal of Applied Business Research

Business and economics
Australian Journal of Labour Economics

Business and economics • Gig economy
What a landmark Uber Eats, DoorDash pay deal could mean for delivery drivers and food costs
The Conversation | 25 Nov 2025
Michael Rawling
Journal Article • Basic

See more Featured Articles →

Featured Videos

Business and economics • Gig economy
Delivery: The People

Explore by subject

A great way to start learning about a new topic is by exploring content that has been specifically curated for classroom use. Using this search strategy is particularly helpful for students who might not yet be confident to create their own searches and require some guidance. It is also a good strategy to use when you "don't really know what you need to know".

To select a subject that interests you, visit the 'Subjects' page and browse through the recommended subject selections available. You can explore the directory either by using the tabs directly below the top menu bar, or by selecting 'Browse all Subjects'.

e.g. To learn about women's liberation, click on the 'History' link and then choose 'Women's movement'.

Explore by subject

Once you are on your chosen topic page, you can explore the featured articles and videos, accessible either via the top or the right-hand side bar. You can also find other resources by using the pre-formatted search created specifically for that topic.

Note that at the bottom of each topic page there is a list of related key terms that you can click on to take your research further.

Basic key word search

When you have a clear line of inquiry in mind, the best way to find the content you need is to enter your own search query. Searching on Explore

Many students naturally drift towards writing out a full research question, for example: "*Should Australia have a treaty with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?*"

Instead of searching using a full question like this, it's more effective to begin with a broader search using key terms linked to your inquiry, such as *treaty*, *Indigenous Australians*, or *self-determination*. However, avoid limiting the search from the onset with too many key words. Starting broad helps you see the range of material available. From there, you can gradually add more key terms to narrow your results as your focus becomes clearer.
The search engine automatically treats your query terms as an AND search, unless you specifically apply other Boolean operators (such as OR or NOT). So, for example, if you enter the terms *treaty Indigenous Australia*, the search engine will read this as *treaty* AND *Indigenous* AND *Australia.*

Advanced search

Advanced search builds on the basic keyword search letting you string together a more complex query or by refining your results. You can start an advanced search from the home page by selecting 'Advanced search' from the top menu or clicking on the looking glass icon at the top of the page.

You can also click on the 'edit search' button from any results page.

Advanced search

You'll find an explanatory video and more detailed information on advanced searching here.

Download and print the Search Tips reference sheet to support classroom teaching and student searches. This reference sheet summarises key search techniques teachers can model and students can use when searching Informit Explore.

Visit our search strategies page for more tips for how to find what you need in Informit Explore.

ADVANCED SEARCH	SEARCH HISTORY	SAVED SEARCH

Searching **8 databases** CHANGE DATABASES

Enter Search term | All Fields

AND | Enter Search term | All Fields ⊕

↻ CLEAR SEARCH   SEARCH

Limit Search: ☐ Full Text ☐ Has Full Text ☐ Abstract Only ☐ Open Access ☐ Peer Reviewed

Resource Type: Match Any ⌄ Select all/Clear all

☐ Video and Sound ☐ Journal ☐ Report ☐ Book ☐ Conference ☐ Conference Proceedings

Personalised features

Informit offers personalised access through individual accounts for all teachers. Although your school provides institutional access to Explore, some features require a second individual login via your personal school email.

Creating your own account allows you to:
• Save searches and favourite items
• Create and manage clips
• Receive alerts for new content
• View usage statistics for your school
• For Explore Media users, access and share restricted videos

How to register

1. Go to the Informit home page: Click the Login button at the top right corner.
2. Select "Login" or "Register": If you don't have an individual account, click Register.
3. Enter your details: Provide your name, email, and a password. Teachers should use their school email so the system recognises their educator status.
4. Verify your account: Check your email for a verification message and follow the link to confirm registration.
5. Log in: Once verified, you can access all account features.

Logging In

1. Click **Login** at the top left-hand corner of the Explore or Explore Media screen.
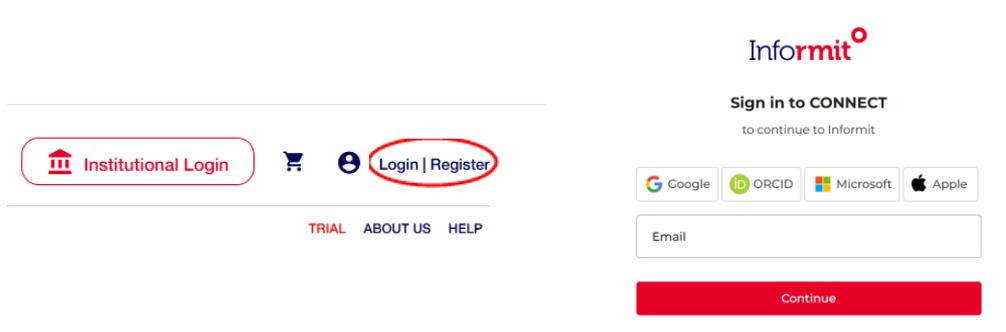2. Enter your registered email and password.

Tip: If your school uses Single Sign-On (SSO), log in through your institution's portal first, then access individual features with your Informit account.

Do you need more help?

For more support resources, please visit Informit's Knowledge Base.

You can also stay up to date with Informit's activities by visiting our website.

If you can't find what you need and require technical assistance, contact us at support.informit@rmit.edu.au/+61 3 9925 8210

Thank you

For other matters relating
to Informit Explore, contact:

Jessica Darnell
Jessica.darnell@rmit.edu.au
0433 726 339

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