

Becoming an expert in your discipline

1. Read a brief history of your academic discipline, e.g. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematics>
2. Jot down three or four things about your subject you didn't know before.
3. Who are the 'big names' in your discipline? What contributions did/do they make to your discipline?
- 4a. Access an online database of academic literature relating to your discipline. JSTOR is a good choice, as it covers many subjects in the sciences, social sciences and humanities, and has a generous offering of open access material that doesn't require any institutional affiliation.
- 4b. Identify any journal relating to your subject. Pick any issue of that journal from a variety of different years. Look at the titles of all the different articles to see what seem to be the hot topics... Don't worry if you don't understand the content of the article - for now it's helpful just to get an idea of the topics.