



Lucy Cavendish College  
University of Cambridge

# Cottrell Essay Prize

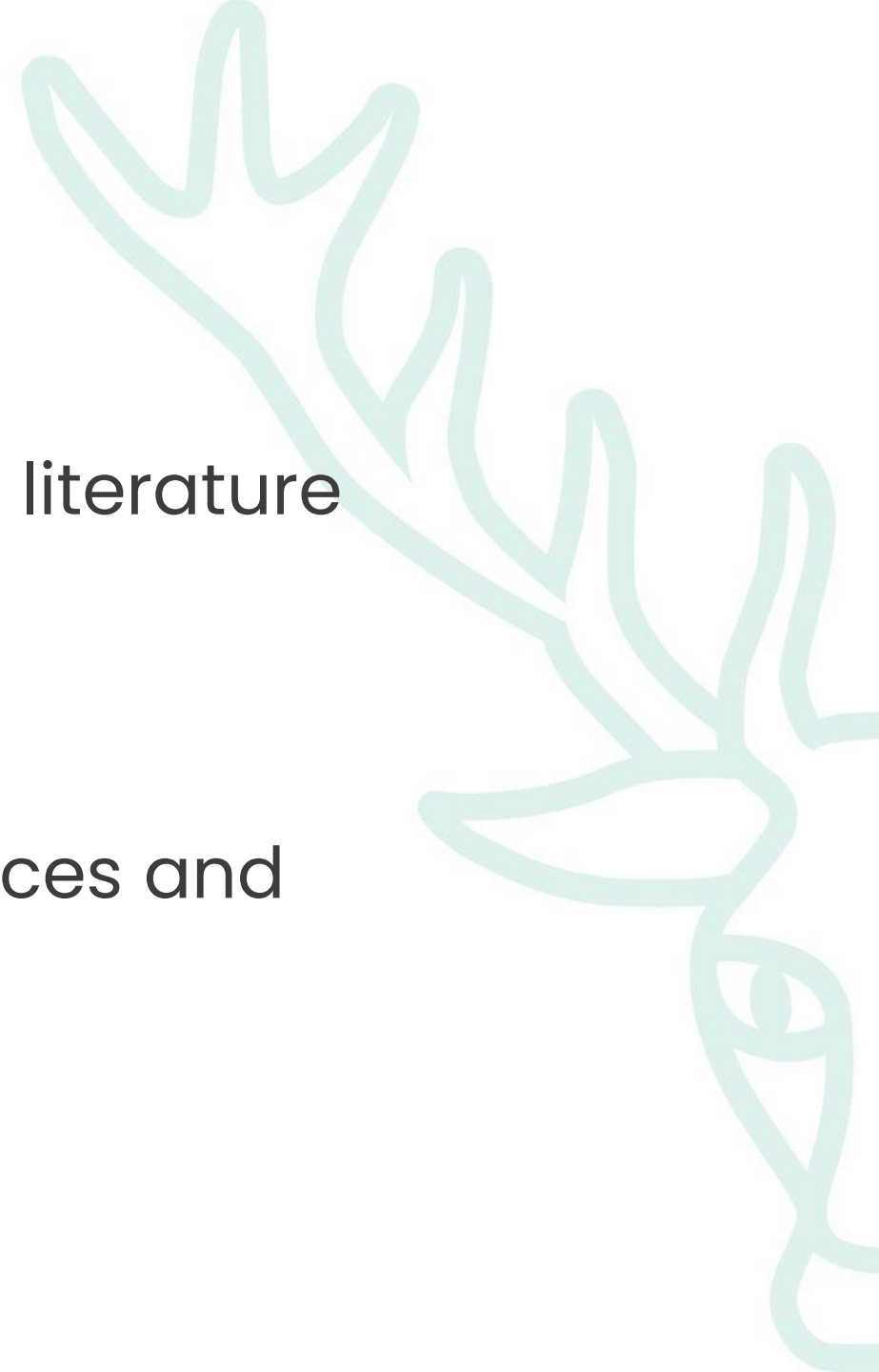
Finding free research  
literature and first steps in  
referencing

Suzanne Tonkin  
Librarian and Fellow  
Lucy Cavendish College



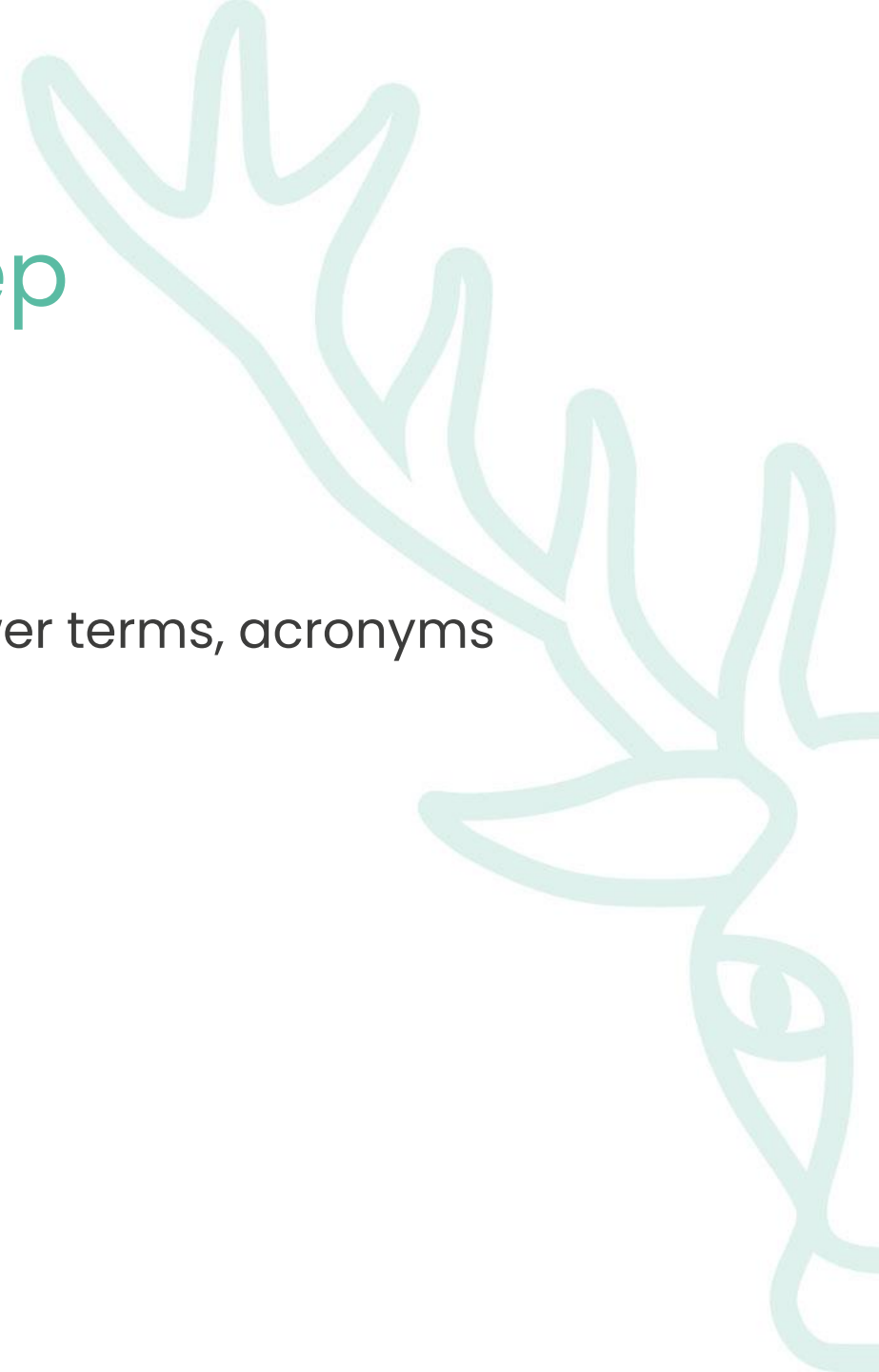
# Today's session

- Identify the steps involved in a simple literature search & construct an initial query
- Choose the right resources to search
- Recognize when to reference
- Use a simple tool to construct references and bibliographies



# Finding literature – step by step

- STEP 1: Define your question(s)
- STEP 2: List your keywords
  - Synonyms, variant spellings, broader and narrower terms, acronyms and abbreviations
- STEP 3: Your search statement: some tips
  - Phrase searching – “wind energy”
  - Truncation – greenwash\*
  - Wildcard – colo?r
- STEP 4: Assess your results



# Strategic search planner

<b>What is your research topic?</b>	<b>List 2-5 possible search terms you might use to find resources</b>	<b>Find a source that you would consider using in your essay.  Copy and paste the Harvard or *** reference below</b>	<b>What idea, source or author do you want to find more about based on the source you just found?</b>	<b>Based on the results you found, list 2-3 other search terms you might use to find more sources:</b>

<https://www.projectcora.org/assignment/strategic-searching-spreadsheet>

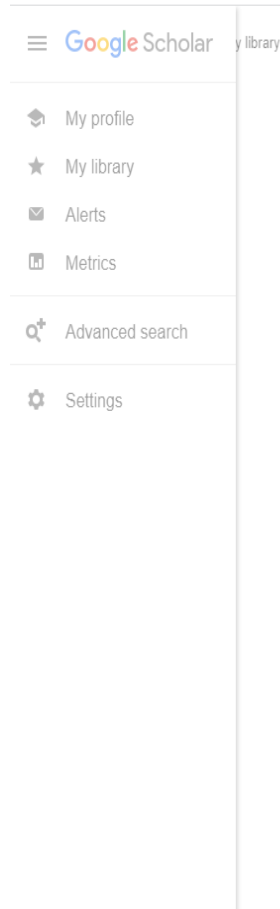
# Places to search

- Health warning – BEWARE GOOGLING!
- School/college library?
- Local public library
  - Online reference sources
  - News resources
  - Non-fiction ebooks
- Professional organisations: BMA; NHS; BVA
  - Libraries, publications and other benefits usually for members
  - BUT... blogs, social media feeds & webpages

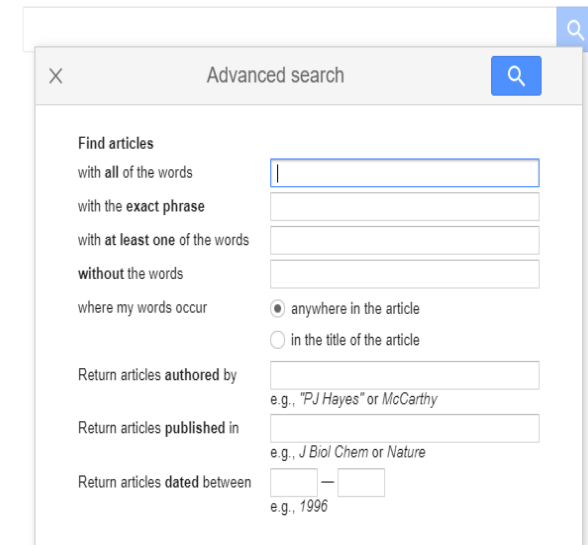


# Google Scholar

- scholar.google.co.uk
- Academic articles, posters, chapters, theses



Google Scholar



An 'Advanced search' dialog box with a search bar at the top right. The dialog contains several sections for refining search results:

- Find articles**
  - with all of the words: [input field]
  - with the exact phrase: [input field]
  - with at least one of the words: [input field]
  - without the words: [input field]
  - where my words occur
    - anywhere in the article
    - in the title of the article
- Return articles authored by: [input field]  
e.g., "PJ Hayes" or McCarthy
- Return articles published in: [input field]  
e.g., J Biol Chem or Nature
- Return articles dated between: [input field] - [input field]  
e.g., 1996

# Google Scholar – results list

The screenshot shows a Google Scholar search for 'biofuels' with approximately 714,000 results. The left sidebar contains filters for time (Any time, Since 2022, Since 2021, Since 2018, Custom range...), sorting (Sort by relevance, Sort by date), type (Any type, Review articles), and options (include patents, include citations, Create alert). The main results list includes:

- Cellulosic biofuels** (PDF) annualreviews.org  
A Carroll, C Somerville - Annual review of plant biology, 2009 - annualreviews.org  
The development of sustainable, low-carbon, liquid fuels from cellulosic biomass will require advances in many areas of science and engineering. This review describes the major ...  
☆ Save 99 Cite Cited by 925 Related articles All 8 versions Web of Science: 528
- Progress and recent trends in biofuels** (HTML) sciencedirect.com  
A Demirbas - Progress in energy and combustion science, 2007 - Elsevier  
In this paper, the modern biomass-based transportation fuels such as fuels from Fischer-Tropsch synthesis, bioethanol, fatty acid (m)ethylester, biomethanol, and biohydrogen are ...  
☆ Save 99 Cite Cited by 2099 Related articles All 12 versions Web of Science: 1128
- Biofuels** (HTML) cell.com  
C Somerville - Current biology, 2007 - cell.com  
... biofuels consumption with the relatively small amount for which market numbers are available suggests that biofuels ... in the use of liquid biofuels for transportation in the developed world...  
☆ Save 99 Cite Cited by 271 Related articles All 7 versions Web of Science: 128
- Biofuels: a technological perspective** (PDF) researchgate.net  
R Luque, L Herrero-Davila, JM Campelo... - Energy & ... 2008 - pubs.rsc.org  
... Biofuels might help to meet the future energy supply ... the production and potential of biofuels in the transport sector including ... implications of the widespread use of biofuels in our society. ...  
☆ Save 99 Cite Cited by 651 Related articles All 3 versions Web of Science: 423
- Biofuels in the US—challenges and opportunities** (HTML) sciencedirect.com  
SK Hoekman - Renewable energy, 2009 - Elsevier  
... biofuels in the US, describes usage trends and projections, and highlights major R&D efforts to promote development and commercialization of 2nd Generation Biofuels... of biofuels. This ...  
☆ Save 99 Cite Cited by 453 Related articles All 13 versions Web of Science: 225

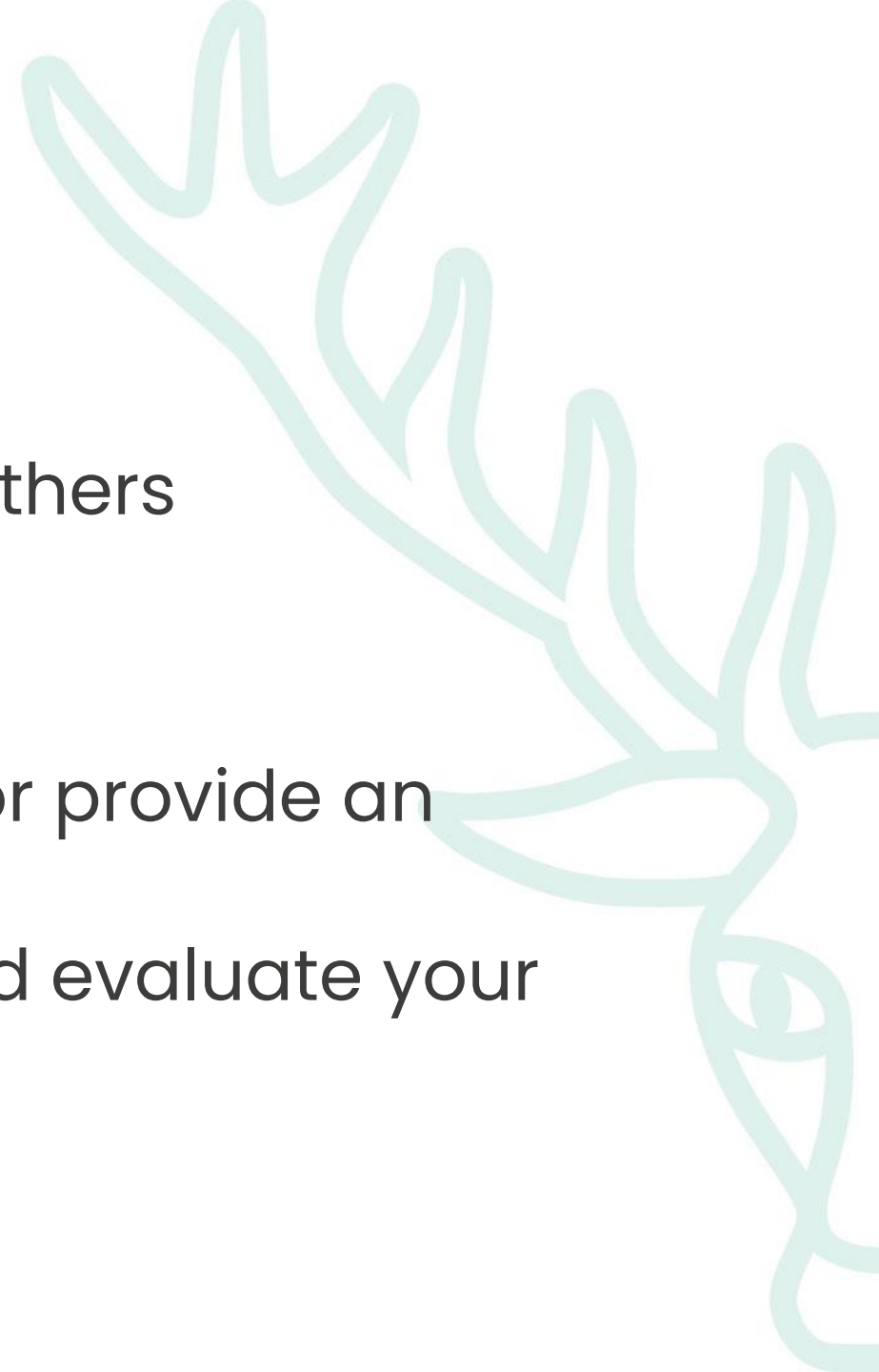
Related searches:

- generation biofuels
- algae biofuels
- biomass biofuels
- microalgae biofuels
- biotechnology biofuels
- biofuels fossil fuels
- renewable biofuels
- sustainable biofuels

- Filters – narrow down by date
- PDF links or free online versions
- Evaluate!

# Referencing – why bother?

- Acknowledge the work and ideas of others
- To avoid plagiarism
- Show breadth/depth of your reading
- Evidence to support your argument, or provide an alternative view
- Allow readers to find your sources and evaluate your interpretation
- Avoid losing marks?



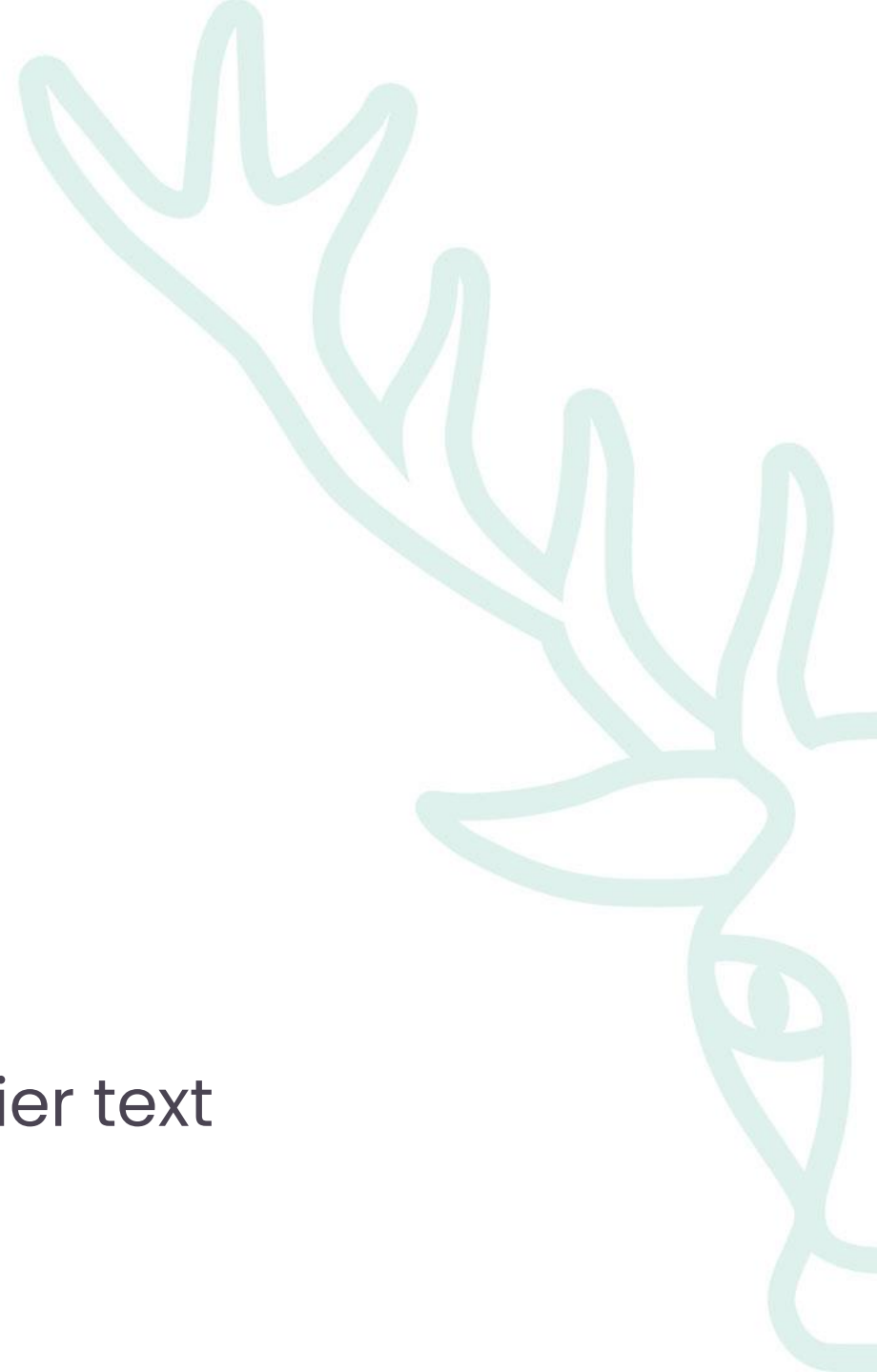


## When to reference?

- Published or unpublished
- Print or online
- Quote, summarise, paraphrase

### When not to:

- Common knowledge
- Historical overview of a subject
- In your conclusion when referring to earlier text
- Your own experiences



# Referencing

- Record details of useful resources
- Different styles: Harvard, Vancouver, MHRA, Chicago, MLA etc etc
  - In text citation
  - Reference list / bibliography
  - Eg Harvard (author, date)

'Citing a book from which you copied a sentence is paying a debt'  
(Eco, 2015, p.378).

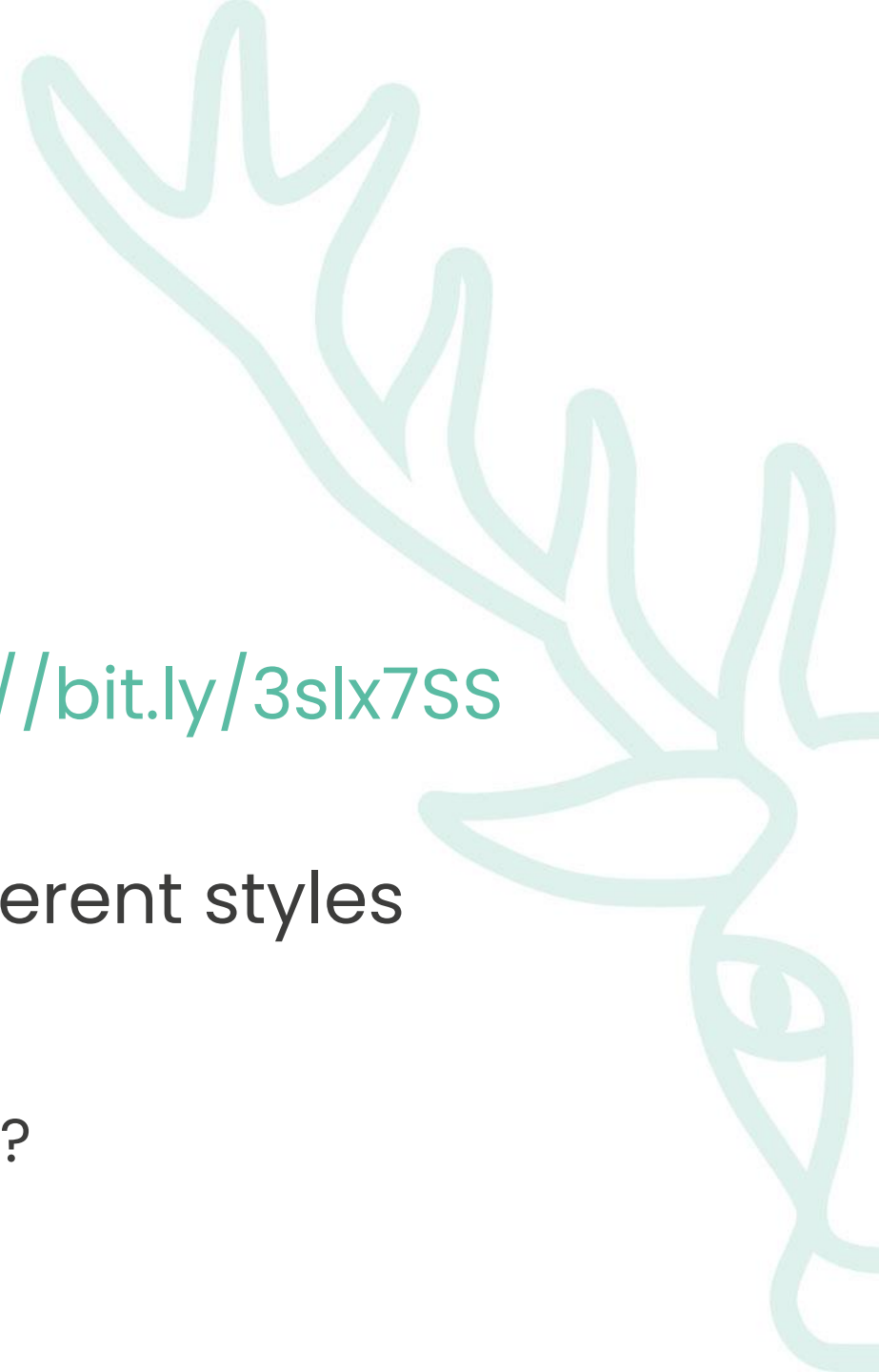
Eco, U. (2015) *How to write a thesis*. Cambridge: MIT Press.



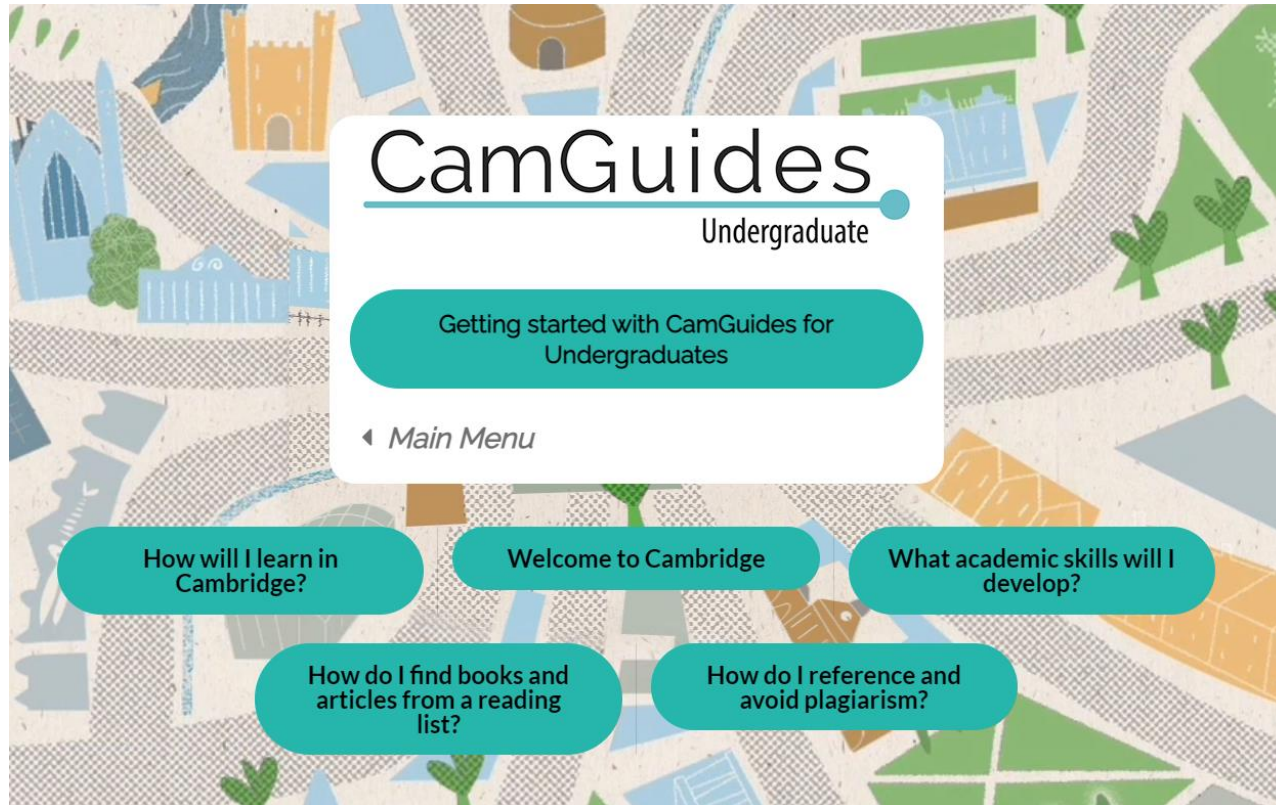
# Harvard

## Useful guides:

- Open University quick guide: <https://bit.ly/3slx7SS>
- CamGuides: broad guidance and different styles
  - Google “CamGuides”
  - Undergraduate
  - How do I reference and avoid plagiarism?



# Online help – CamGuides



- “Pre-arrival” resources but useful any time
- Follow the course or dip in and out
- Pathways for STEMM and AHSS

**[camguides.lib.cam.ac.uk/undergraduates.html](http://camguides.lib.cam.ac.uk/undergraduates.html)**

## A referencing tool: ZoteroBib

<https://zbib.org/>

- Simple tool to build bibliographies
- Web based: no need to download software or create account
- Copy & paste a URL / ISBN or type in details
- Format by preferred referencing style
- Copy & paste in text citations
- Copy & paste formatted bibliographies
- Bibliography automatically saved to browser's local storage

