

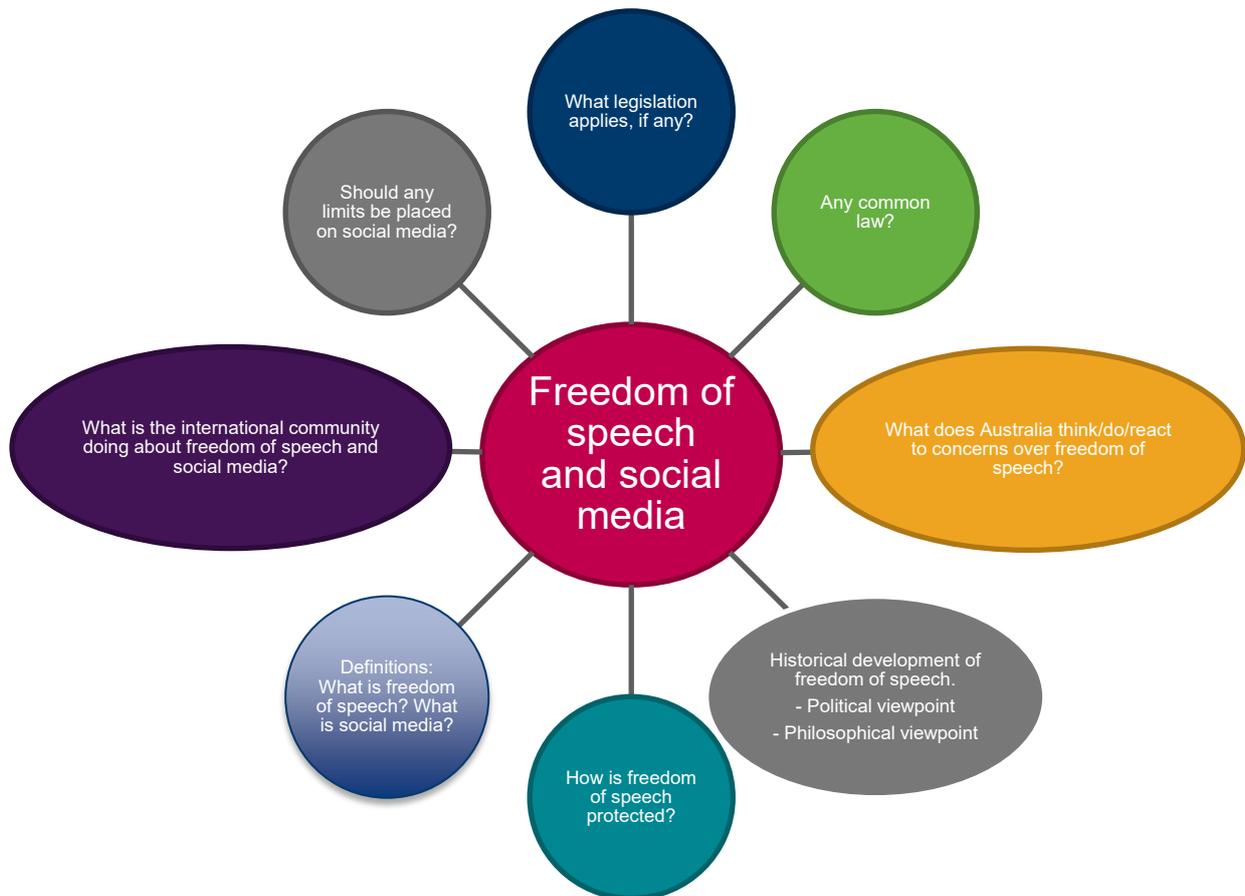
## A visual guide to Legal Research

### Identify the legal issues

Break down the legal issues in the assignment question and establish areas you will need to research.

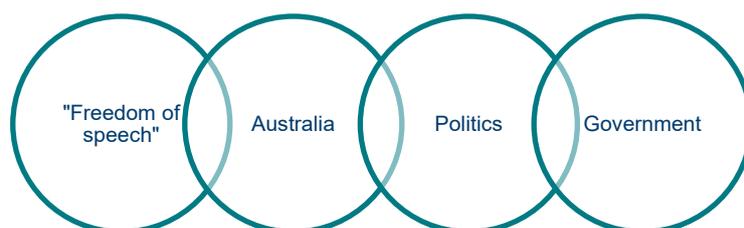
Example assignment question:

*With the rise of social media more people than ever will be able to have their voices heard. In Australia how does social media affect freedom of speech and should any limits be placed on this freedom?*



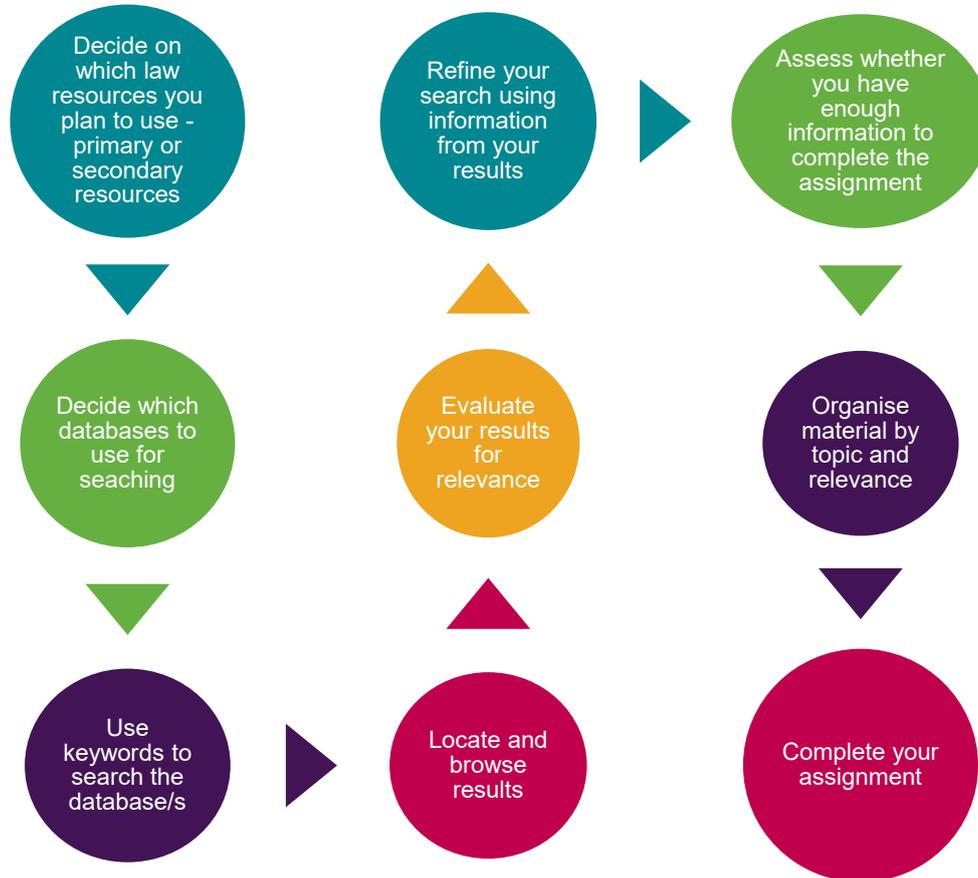
### Identify the key concepts

From the diagram pick out the key concepts for one of the issues. For example: to research the political viewpoint of freedom of speech in Australia, choose terms that would describe this issue.



## Plan your research

Use this process map to guide your plan to find the right information for your assignment. You may need to conduct multiple searches.



## Choosing your resources

Below is a list to help guide you to the relevant type of resource for your information requirements:

Resource Type	Use to:
<b>Case Citators</b>	Find relevant case law on a topic. Search by citation, case name or by keywords
<b>Legislation Databases</b>	Find relevant legislation and links to other materials, such as case law.
<b>Books</b>	Gain an overview of the law and guide you to relevant case law, legislation and analysis
<b>Legal Dictionaries</b>	Define legal terms and key concepts
<b>Journal Databases</b>	Academic journals will provide analysis and argument on legal issues.

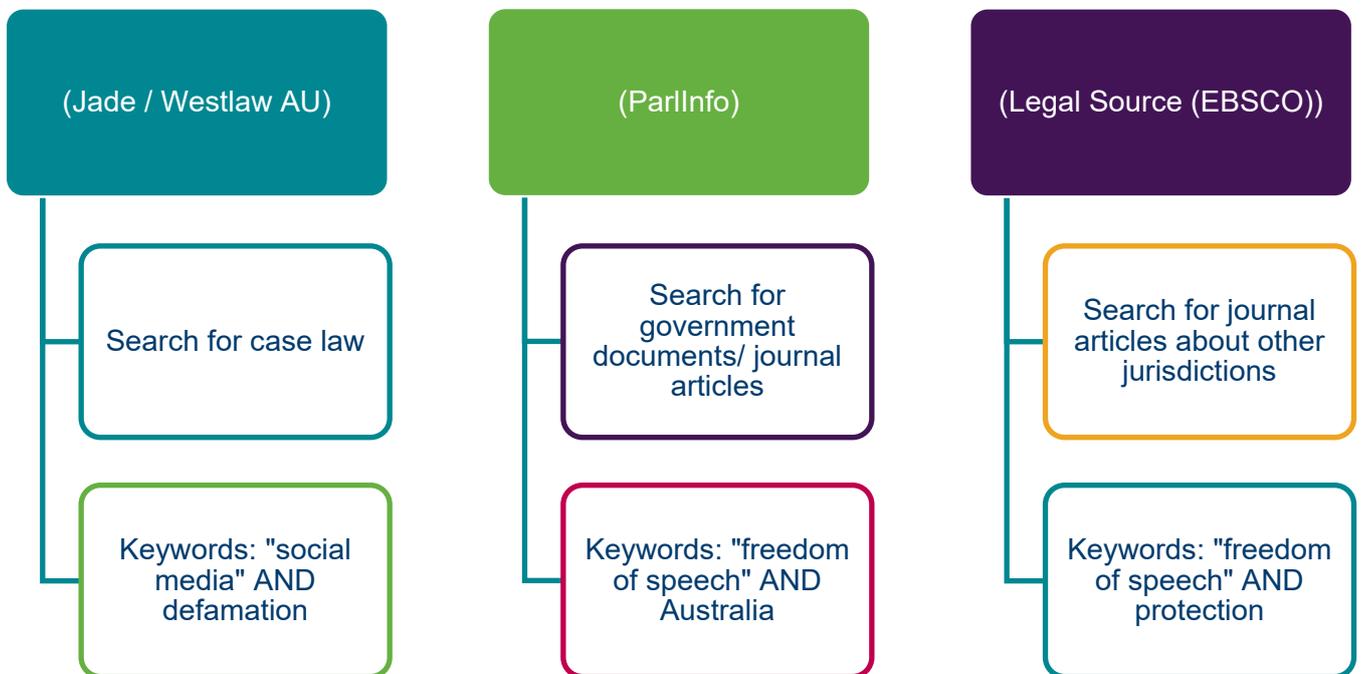
Using secondary sources, like books and dictionaries, is a good place to start for background on the law and legal issues. Using case citators and legislation databases will identify original sources of the law, and finally, journal databases will identify articles to provide in-depth analysis.

You will need to critically analyse your search results to determine their quality and whether there are gaps in your research. Have you gathered enough information from the most appropriate type of resource?

### Document and Refine your research results

Record your search progress. Note the name of the database you used and the keywords in your search strategy. This will determine whether you need to use other resource types, change the keywords or further refine your search.

For example, here is a representation of a search strategy using the example assignment question:



You should by now have an appropriate number of primary and secondary sources to complete your assignment.

### Need more assistance?

#### Ask staff at the Information desk

<b>Chat/FAQs</b>	<a href="mailto:libanswers.federation.edu.au">libanswers.federation.edu.au</a>
<b>Phone</b>	1300 552 567
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:libinfo@federation.edu.au">libinfo@federation.edu.au</a>
<b>Library homepage</b>	<a href="http://federation.edu.au/library">federation.edu.au/library</a>

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