### Unit Title: Conducting a Literature Search

**Duration:** 90 mins  
**Description:** F2F, hands-on. Online supporting content available  
**Max.** 30 students  
**Level:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** Unit 1 Parts 1 and 2

#### Overview
An in-depth look at how to approach a literature search, understanding the types of literature available and using effective techniques to discover relevant resources for your Literature Review

#### Unit Level Learning Outcomes
At the end of this instruction session, students will be able to:
- Describe the shape of literature – primary, secondary, grey literature, different formats etc.
- Understand what is a Literature review
- Identify the key concepts of their research question
- Effectively employ search strategies
- Document their search
- Be able to choose from the different types and uses of databases – subject, specialist information, citation
- Know how to access resources not in UCC Library
- Know how to access other Libraries

#### Unit Level Teaching Approach
**What is a Literature review**
Shape of literature – primary, secondary, grey literature, different formats etc.

Identify the key concepts of a research question – identify relevant keywords and employ Boolean logic and other strategies to searching (exact phrase, truncation, fields, indexing etc)

Different search strategies – building block approach, citation pearl growing, related items, successive fractions, most specific first, berry picking

Documenting your searches – using a search log

**Databases** – subject, specialist information, citation

Open Access journals and books, OA repositories

Accessing resources not in UCC Library (ILL)

Accessing other Libraries (Sconul, ALCID etc)

#### Unit Level Assessment
No formal assessment
| Student Activities | Hands-on exercises searching different resources, using different strategies |