Pre-assessment Exercise:
Group reflect on these Questions before session;

- Have you decided on your dissertation Research Topic?
- Are you still in the process of formulating a Research Question?
- Is it achievable within the allotted time scale?
- Are there sufficient library resources to answer your particular research question?
- What library resources have you used for previous assignments and projects?
- Are these sufficient to complete your dissertation?
- If you intend using non library resources, consider their availability and accessibility?
- Are there any particular questions or issues you would like me to cover in the class?

Simply search the Library Catalogue for a list of Books on Business Research Methods

These books will provide a good introduction to the research process.
**Six step process to developing a Research Question:**
Solution fluency is six steps creative learning approach to problem solving within real time. It is very applicable to developing a research topic.
Each step is self-explanatory
Please see web link below for more details.

**Developing Personal Knowledge Management (PKM) Routine:**
Harold Jarche is a Knowledge Management consultant who blogs about Organizational learning.
He has developed a PKM framework which I think is very applicable to undertaking a dissertation.
[http://www.jarche.com/2014/03/what-is-your-pkm-routine/](http://www.jarche.com/2014/03/what-is-your-pkm-routine/)

It consists of three components
- **Seek**
- **Sense**
- **Share**

Applying this model to undertaking a Literature review you have to **Seek** out what already had been written and published before by others in your designated subject field.
This knowledge can be collated from a **variety of sources**.

- **Books**
- **Journals**
- **Handbooks**
- **Government Reports**
- **Professional Associations**
- **Commercial Reports**
- **Newspapers**
- **Trade Press**
- **Social Media**
- **Blogs**
- **Audio Recordings**
- **Video**

You critically analyse, and synthesise this knowledge to make **Sense** of it.
Finally based on your own research findings **Share** your individual knowledge contribution to the subject field via your dissertation, or publishing a scholarly journal article based upon it.
Identifying Top Journals:
Two main journal ranking databases used for identifying premier journals in a subject field.
1. Journal Citation Reports (JCR) is Thomson Reuter’s database which ranks all ISI journals.
2. Scopus – Ranks all the Elsevier journals.

The best way to measure the influence of a journal title within a specific subject field is by both its one and five year impact factor. This is the number of times articles within a particular journal have been cited by other scholars.

Mendeley:
I think the real value of setting up a Mendeley account is the ability to search across the database of references uploaded by its one million users via the papers tab. In the screen shot below we are searching for articles on “Lean Accounting”.

![Mendeley screenshot]

You can then cross check with the library any journal references which may be of interest. If the library does not have full text access to a particular journal reference, it can be requested via Inter library Loans.

Double Check Reference lists:
Remember scholars due to time constraints occasionally can make slight errors in their reference lists. This normally consists of wrong volume number, page numbers or year. So it
is always worth double checking the citation by simply putting it into Google Scholar. Which ultimately could save you a lot of heartache, when trying to track down a particular reference?

**Dissertation Databases:**
The Library has two databases for tracking down dissertations. See screen shots below
Proquest Dissertations and Theses Abstract & Index will not provide full text. It can be difficult to obtain US dissertations via Inter Library Loan, and faster to purchase a downloadable copy direct from Proquest.

**Libguides:**

http://libguides.ul.ie/mgmt
These online subject support guides are still a work in progress, but you may find them useful for reference purposes. I welcome any feedback you have on them.

**Diigo:**
I use diigo to capture websites of interest, it has a facility to tag and make notes. Feel free to use any of the resources listed in my diigo account.
https://www.diigo.com/user/petereilly33