So you’ve got to make a podcast...

- What kinds of information do you need to include?
- Where can you find that information?
- Let’s talk about your process
  - Mapping your information needs
  - Brainstorming search terms and identifying potential information sources
  - Conducting your research.

Working individually, create a concept map for your selected topic using the provided handout. Think freely, without any expectation of result, write down and map out any and all related words, concepts, or questions that you have about the topic.

Research Nitty Gritty

Finding scholarly articles

- Disciplinary databases? Google Scholar? Where to look and how?
  - Each databases has different features, and different content.
  - You’ll need to look in more than one database.

Finding news, grey literature & statistics: what’s on the web?

- Why use newspapers?
- What’s grey literature and how would one find it?
- Where to find data?
  - Tip: Identify stakeholders to locate useful data

As a group, follow the instructions on the back of this page and utilize each type of information resource in turn to locate relevant resources for your topic. You may wish to assign a different information resource to each member of the group, or all work through them together. As you explore, make note of how they will be useful for you in your work and any useful or distinctive features for each type.

Tips for writing the podcast script

- You need a script. Don’t wing it.
- Consider your audience – what questions will they have, and what sources will you use to answer those questions?
- How will you communicate technical details into language accessible for a general audience?
Group Exercise: Investigate Resources

In your group, you are going to explore information related to your topic by searching in four places:

- Background Source
- International News
- Key Disciplinary Database
- Broad Scope Database

First, based on our concept mapping exercise, what search terms are you going to use for your first round of searching?

Now, use those key terms to 1) search each resource, 2) find an information source relevant to your topic, and 3) answer the following questions:

- Is this document you found coming from a particular disciplinary perspective (e.g., natural sciences, social sciences, etc.)? If so, what is that perspective?

- How would you use this document? What aspect of your topic does it help you engage with?

- When you’ve found relevant results, are you getting the full text of the item or full dataset? If not, how do you get to the actual item?

- Are there tools within the information resource that can help you find more results similar to the useful source that you’ve found?
Concept Map
Write your topic (Drawdown solution) in the circle and then start to map out the important subtopics that you will need to cover. Consider: What are the crucial issues? Who are the stakeholders for each issue: who makes decisions? Who has oversight? Who is impacted? How is information communicated about these issues, i.e. who is collecting data or writing about these topics? What will your podcast audience already know about this topic? What questions are they likely to have?