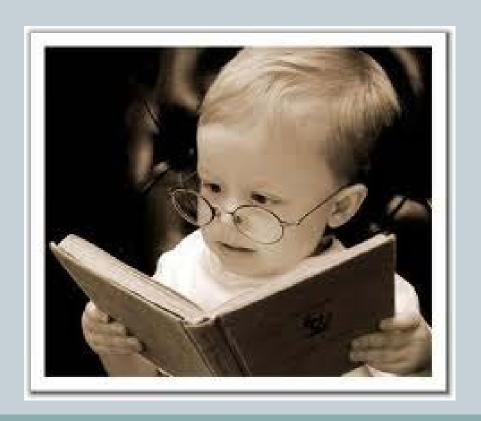
## CAFS - IRP

## LITERATURE REVIEW

#### What is a literature review?

 A literature review is a description of the literature relevant to a particular field or topic.



## How does a literature review differ from other assignments?

- The literature itself is the subject of discussion.
- 'Literature' covers everything relevant that is written on a topic
- books, websites, journal articles, newspaper articles, historical records, government reports, encyclopedias etc..



## Why do a literature review?

- A literature review gives an overview of the field of inquiry
- What has already been said on the topic, who the key writers are, what the main theories and hypotheses are, what questions are being asked, and what methodologies and methods are appropriate and useful.



• A critical literature review shows how other peoples ideas fit into your own hypothesis, and how your hypothesis agrees or differs from them.

### How many references should I look for?

 Generally speaking, a reasonable number of references in a literature review would be: 5-10 titles

- Ask your teacher for guidance
- University Literature Reviews can include over 100 references.

## How to write a literature review

# THE PROCESS STEP BY STEP

#### 1. The literature search

- The College Library is a great place to start.
- Use the internet, databases, books, newspapers, reports and bibliographies that are relevant to your field, as these are good references and can advise you on other sources for your literature search. Use them!
- Do not use wikipedia or dodgy websites. YouTube is questionable so use with care.

#### What is a reliable and ethical website?

### Criteria Used in Evaluating Web Resources

#### • Criteria 1: Accuracy

Who is hosting the site.	$\square$ .edu = educational
G	$\square$ .com = commercial
	$\square$ .mil = military
	$\square$ .gov = government
	$\square$ .org = nonprofit

What are their biases?

A good website should state its purpose and intended audience.

It is always a good idea to check with other web resources, journals or magazines that publish website reviews to see if the site has received a stamp of approval, and if so, by whom.

Always remember to verify the information on the website with information found in other print and/or web-based sources.

#### Criteria 2: Authority

Does it have Information about the author.

Does it includes references.

A good website should provide a way to contact the producers of the site.

Check to see if the author or contributor to a Webpage has published in print.

#### What is a reliable and ethical website

#### • Criteria 3: Objectivity

Check if advertising and informational content are being supplied by the same person or organization.

If so, examine whether there is a bias to the informational content.

Keep in mind that many websites with excellent information are sponsored by commercial entities or take advertisements to finance the website.

#### • Criteria 4: Currency

Find out when the page was last updated.

Look to see if there are broken links on the site

#### Criteria 5: Coverage

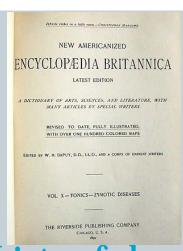
Compare the information with information found on other websites.

Does one site provide more information, more references, more contacts?

Also compare the information on the website with information available in print sources such as books, journals, reports, etc

## What is a dodgy website?

- http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/
- http://www.thepregnancytester.com/



- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List\_of\_ho axes\_on\_Wikipedia
- http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/ e/0,28804,2042333\_2042334\_2042491,00.html

## 2. Noting the bibliographical details

- Write down the full bibliographical details of each book or article as soon as you find a reference to it.
- This will save you an enormous amount of time later on.
- Harvard style referencing is recommended however you may use footnotes or other styles of referencing.
- easybib is a great website that makes your bibliography for you using MLA style. <a href="http://www.easybib.com/">http://www.easybib.com/</a>

### 3. Reading the literature

<u>Take notes</u> or <u>highlight</u> as you read the literature. You are reading to find out how each piece of writing approaches the subject of your research, what it has to say about it, and how it relates to your own hypothesis:

- Is it a general textbook or does it deal with a specific issue(s)?
- Is it a book, report, a study, a historical overview, website etc?
- Does it follow a particular school of thought?
- What is its theoretical basis?
- What definitions does it use?
- What is its general methodological approach? What methods are used?
- What kinds of data does it use to back up its argument?
- What conclusions does it come to?

Usually, you won't have to read the whole text from first to last page. Learn to use <u>efficient scanning and skimming reading techniques</u>.

## 4. Writing the review

- Having gathered the relevant details about the literature, you now need to write the review.
- Important note: do not confuse a literature review with an annotated bibliography.
- An annotated bibliography deals with each text in turn, describing and evaluating the text, using one paragraph for each text.
- In contrast, a *literature review* synthesises many texts in one paragraph. Each paragraph of the literature review should classify and evaluate the **themes of the texts** that are relevant to your thesis; each paragraph or section of your review should deal with a different aspect of the literature.
- Like all academic writing, a literature review must have an introduction, body, and conclusion.

#### The introduction should include:

- the nature of the topic under discussion (the topic of your thesis)
- the parameters of the topic (what does it include and exclude)?
- the basis for your selection of the literature

#### The **conclusion** should include:

 A summary of major agreements and disagreements in the literature

 A summary of general conclusions that are being drawn.

 A summary of where your hypothesis sits in the literature

## The **body paragraphs** could include relevant paragraphs on:

- historical background
- definitions in use
- methodologies and methods in use
- possible approaches to the subject
- different viewpoints with quotes
- current research studies
- current discoveries about the topic
- principal questions that are being asked
- general conclusions that are being drawn

#### **Shark Attacks**

#### Question

 Do shark attacks make people afraid to swim at Sydney beaches and in waterways?

#### **Hypothesis**

 Locals or surfers are not afraid of swimming at Sydney beaches and waterways because of shark attacks but some tourists are afraid.

#### THEMES from Literature

- Definitions What is a shark attack? What do different authors say they are? Do they agree?
- Historical Background Background information about Shark attacks in Sydney? How many? Where? What do different authors say? Do they agree?
- Viewpoints What do different authors say about peoples fear of shark attacks? Do they agree?
- Studies / Research What do studies or current research say about peoples fear of sharks? Do they agree?
- Some of the themes you might discuss are shark nets, cultural backgrounds, ages ect....

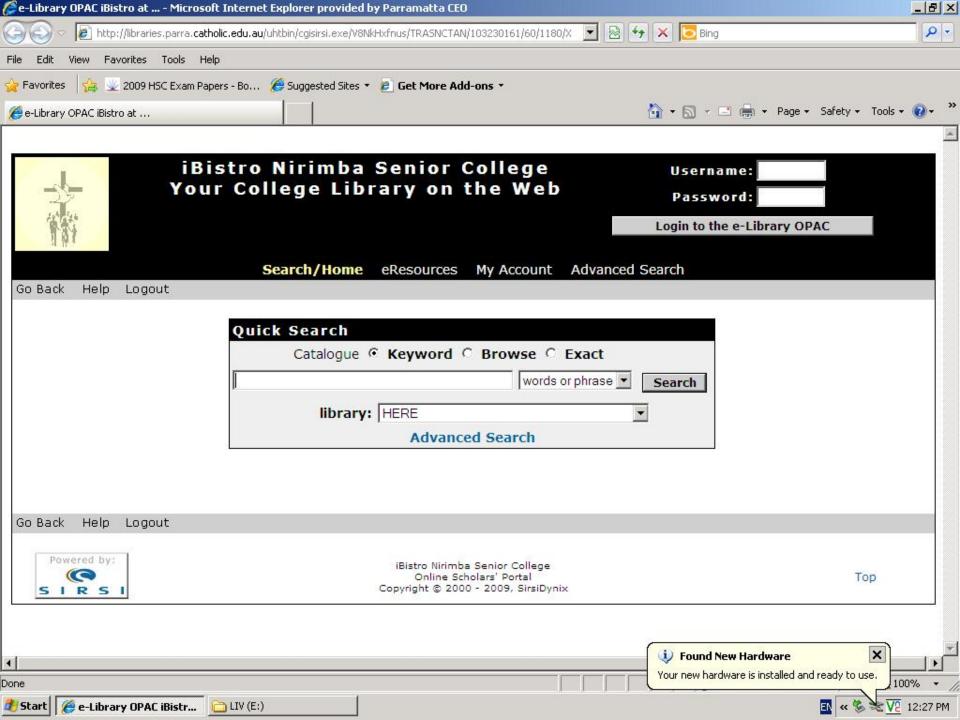
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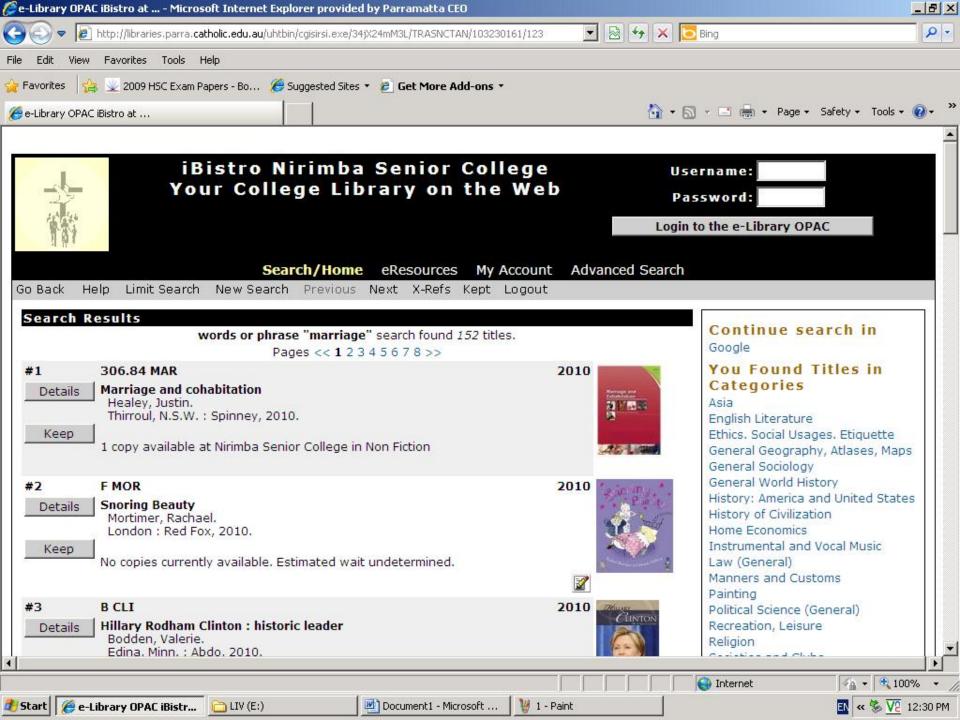
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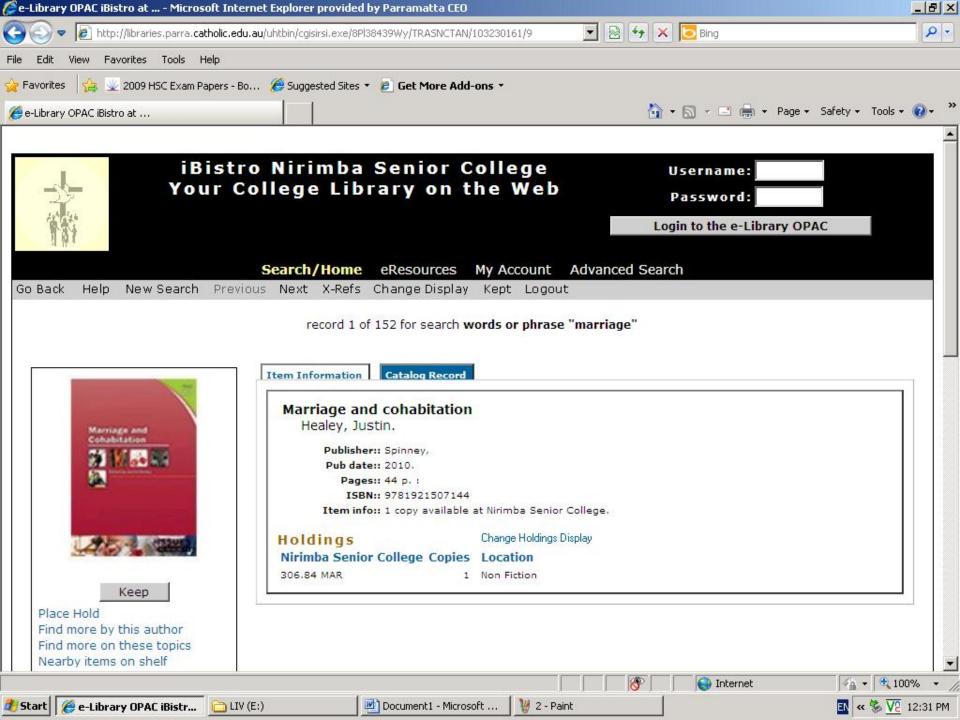


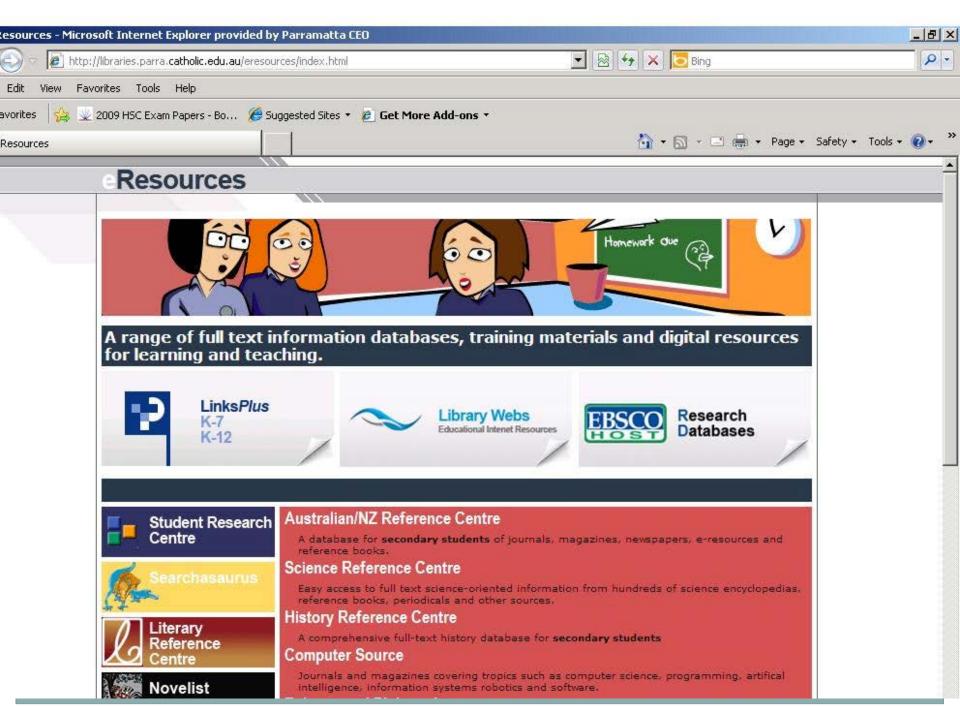
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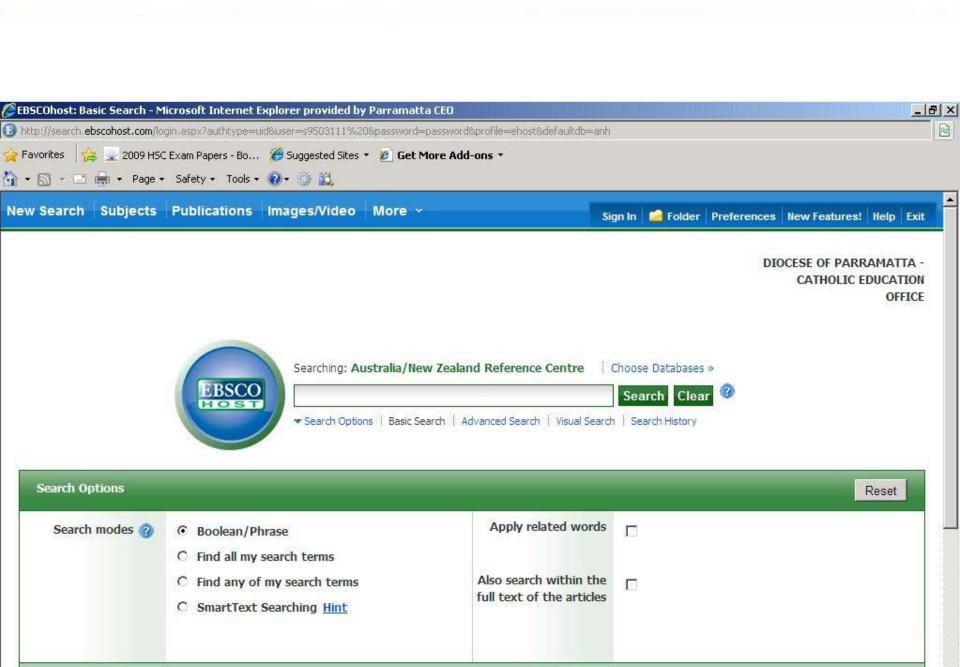


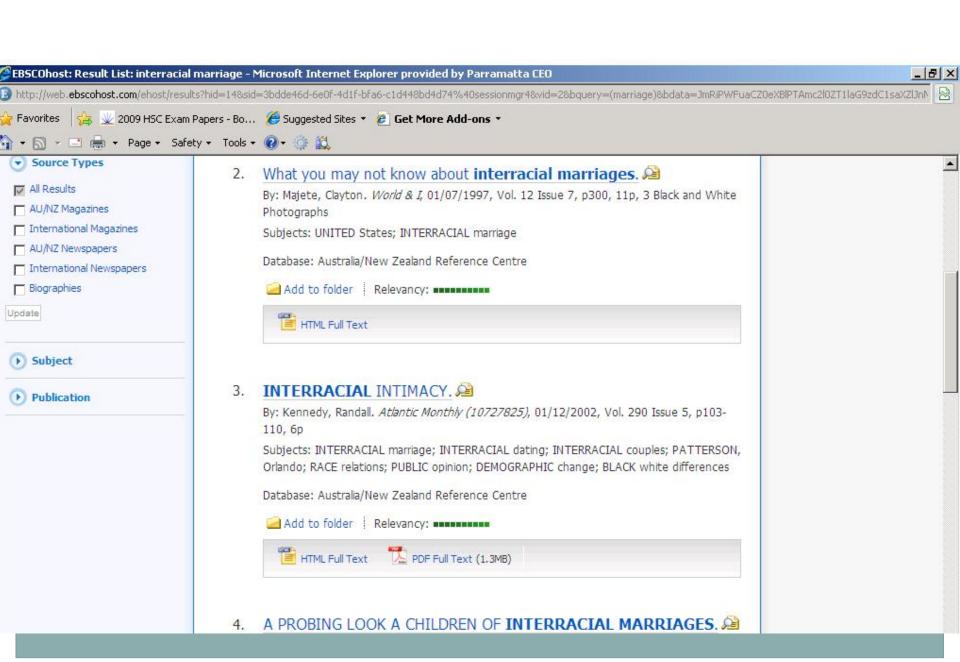


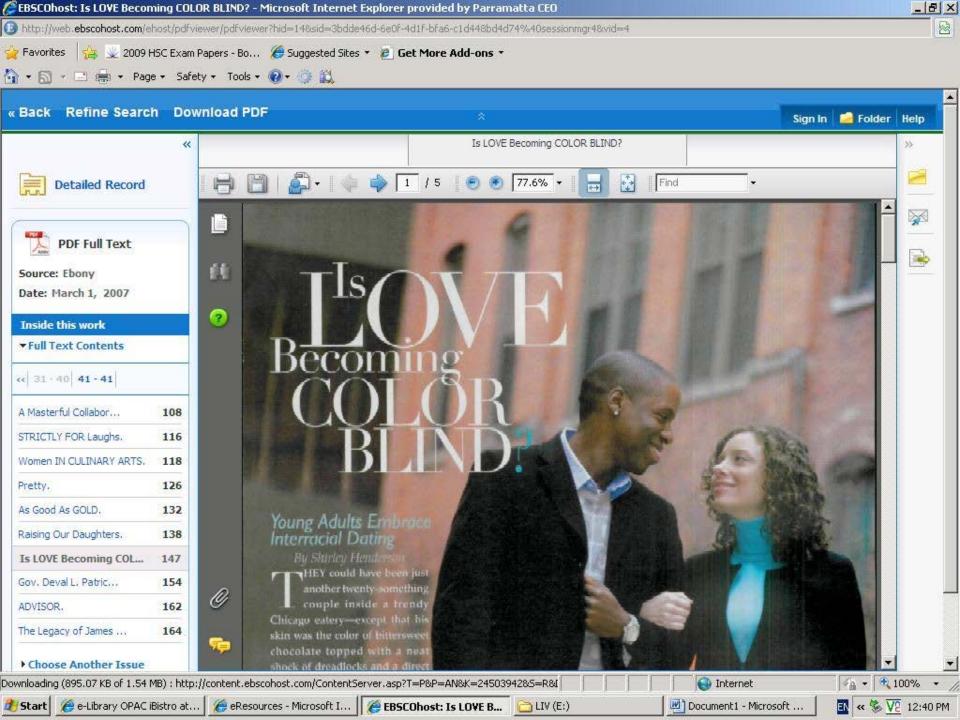


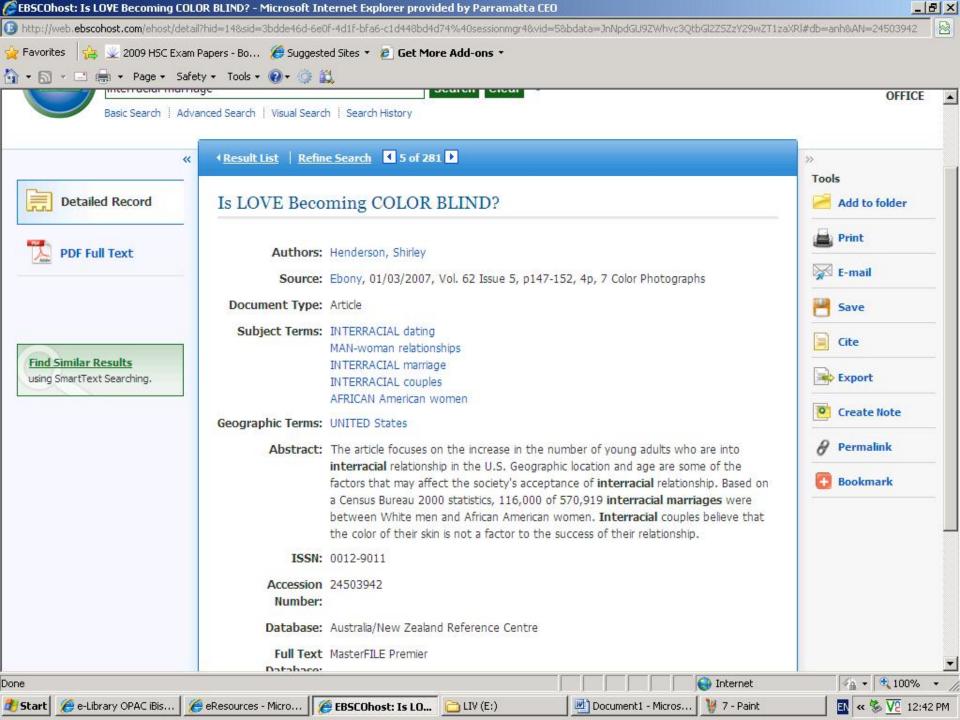












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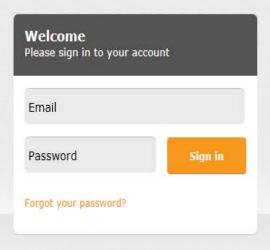


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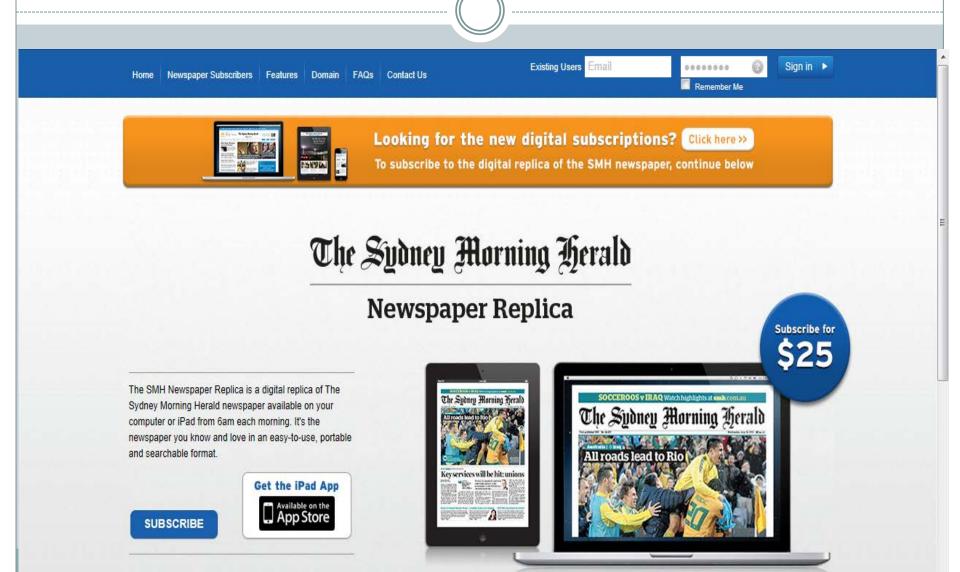
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