

# Research Strategy: INFORMATION CHAINING

**Information chaining** is a research technique that involves using one source to find new sources that can be useful for your research. By following a chain of related topics and links, you can build up a list of resources, and understand more about the topic at the same time.

Here are two main methods of information chaining:

## 1 Hyperlinks in Online Sources

In some online sources, hyperlinks within the article can lead you to other useful sources, both within or outside of the original source. These are usually related terms or keywords that can be useful in building your knowledge of the topic.

in the early 1890s.<sup>1</sup> On 15 April 1981, the Agnes variety of the *Vanda Miss Joaquim* was launched as Singapore's national flower. The plant was named after [Agnes Joaquim](#), who is officially recognised as the breeder of the orchid hybrid. The first record of *Vanda Miss Joaquim*.

Singapore Infopedia ([eresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia](http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia)) features hyperlinks to other sources in all its articles.



Remember to check that the sources you "chain" to are credible and reliable, especially when they lead to external websites.

## 2 Following Clues Within the Text

Noting key information, such as dates, names, and places, within articles can lead you to other reliable sources. For example, a source might mention a certain date:

On **3 January 1971**, Jurong Bird Park, built at a cost of S\$3.5 million, was opened to the public.

You can then use the same keywords to locate credible articles (e.g. newspapers) in other reliable websites:

Into a world of sights and sounds  
*The Straits Times*, 3 January 1971, Page 18  
NewspaperSG  
([eresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers](http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers)) is an online archive of Singapore's newspapers.

TODAY'S opening of the Jurong Bird Park by Defence Minister Dr Goh Keng Swee heralds the dawn of a new era of gracious living.

### References

Utah State University. (2017). *Information chaining, or mining your sources*. Retrieved 2017 Feb 10 from Utah State University Library website: <https://library2.usu.edu/howto/information-chaining-or-mining-your-sources>  
Arunasalam, S. et. al. (2016). *Vanda Miss Joaquim*. Retrieved 2017 Feb 10 from Singapore Infopedia: [http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP\\_752\\_2005-01-10.html](http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP_752_2005-01-10.html)  
*The Straits Times*. (1971, Jan 3). Into a world of sights and sounds, p.18. Retrieved 2017 Feb 10 from NewspaperSG: [http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers/Digitised/Article/straitstimes19710103\\_1.2.55.1](http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers/Digitised/Article/straitstimes19710103_1.2.55.1)