

# Same Difference? A Comparison of Information Literacy Skills of Australian Undergraduate and Postgraduate Information Studies Students

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# Demographics

133 students

**Undergraduate** 51 (38.3%) **Postgraduate** 82 (61.6%)

Curtin 40

Curtin OUA 19

Charles Sturt 74

**Female** 121

**Age** 39+ years (49.6%)

**Male** 12

**Course Weighted Average** 70-79 (Distinction), 42.1%

# All Students

## Searching, Evaluating & Study Practices

Getting started on  
an assignment is  
difficult  
51.1%

Knowing how  
good an  
assignment is, is  
difficult  
62.2%

Library catalogues,  
databases, &  
course readings  
are most often  
used ~65%

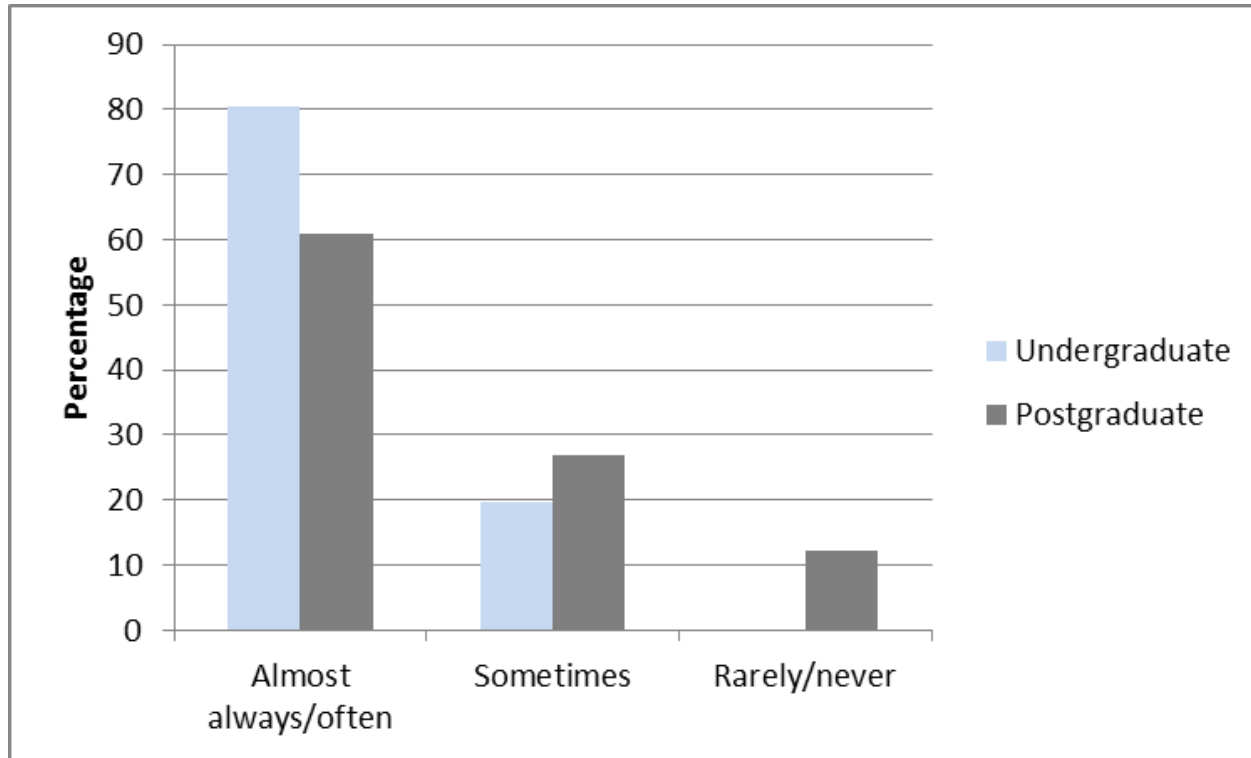
Developing an  
outline is often  
undertaken for an  
assignment  
78.9%

Library & web  
sources are often  
evaluated for  
currency  
97.1% & 89.5%

Passing the course  
is most important  
98.5%

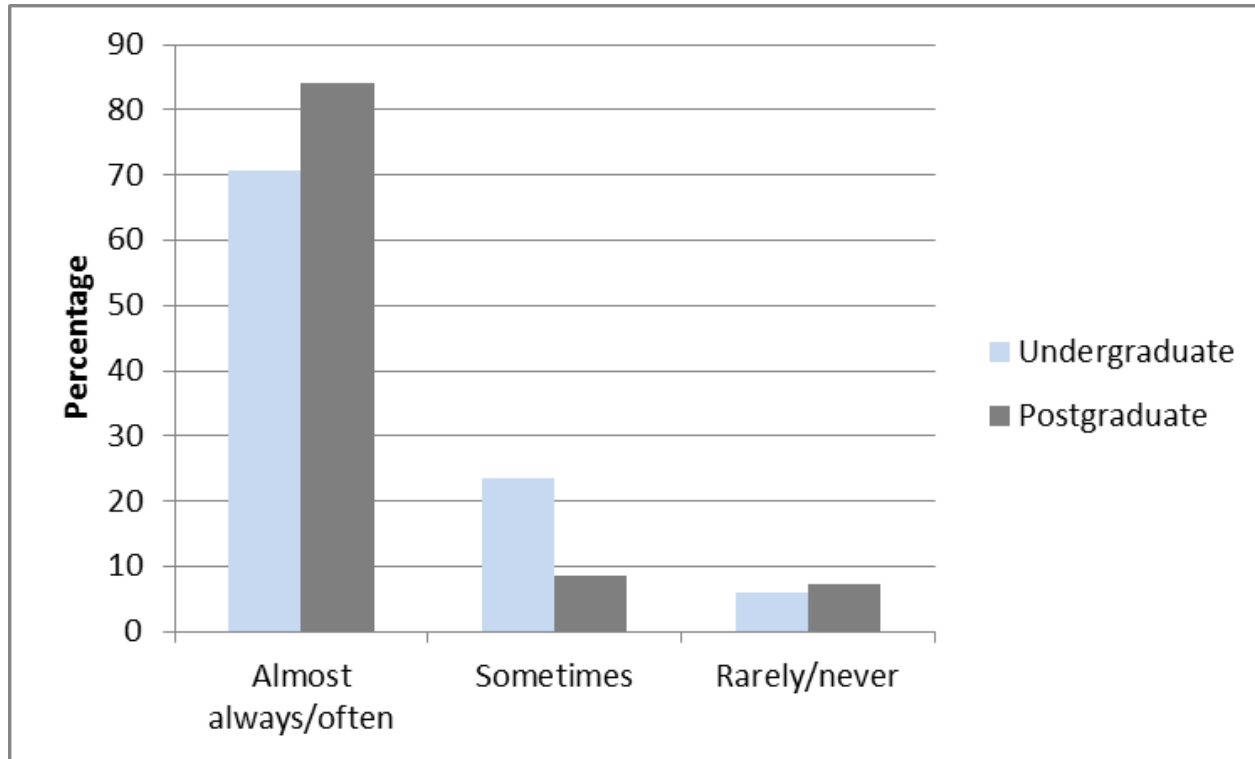
Students consult their tutor first and librarians last for  
information when preparing an assignment

# Undergraduate vs Postgraduate Students



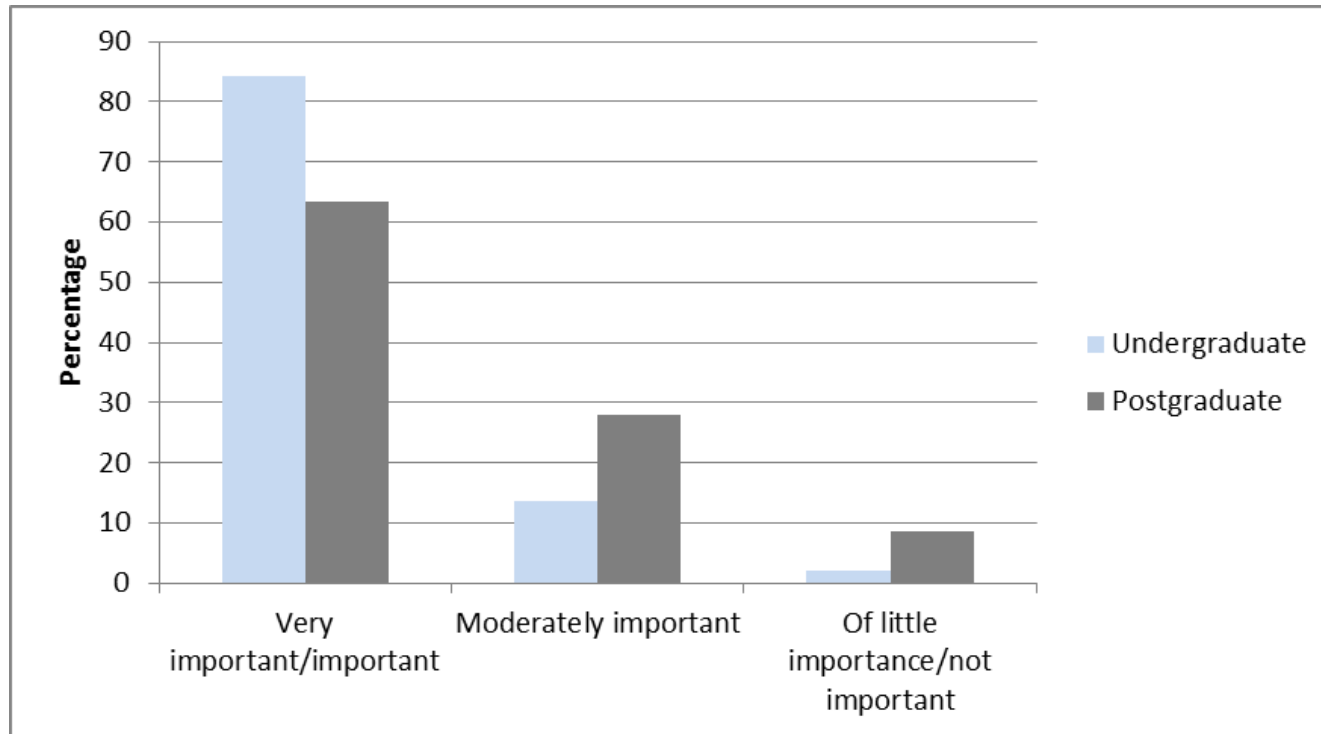
Considering the URL of web sources

# Undergraduate vs Postgraduate Students



Developing an outline when preparing an assignment

# Undergraduate vs Postgraduate Students



Improving writing skills when working on an assignment

# Undergraduate Students

## Searching, Evaluating & Study Practices

Getting started on  
an assignment is  
difficult  
54.9%

Knowing how  
good an  
assignment is, is  
difficult  
68.6%

Information on  
social networking  
sites are rarely  
used  
82.4%

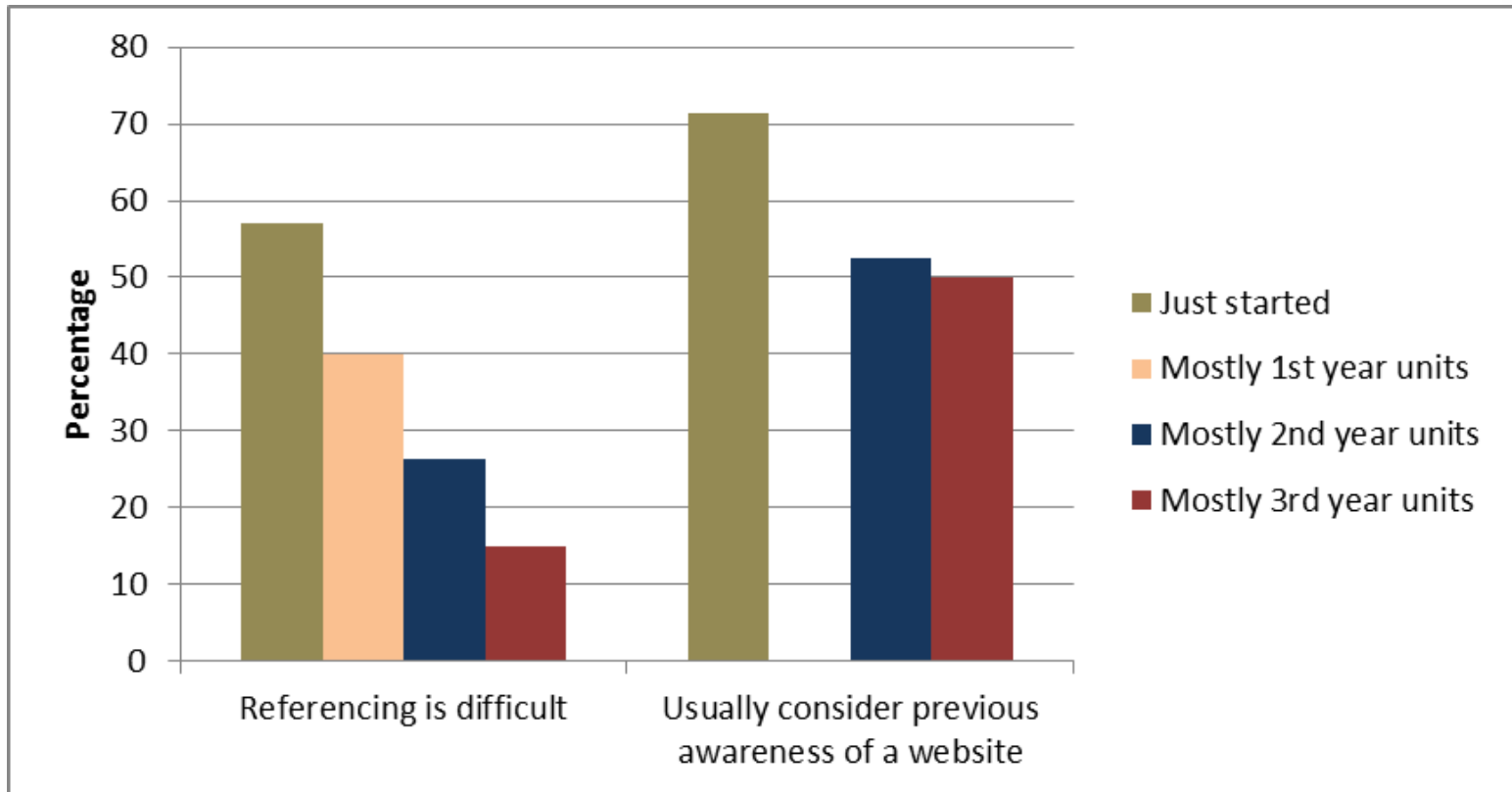
Library and web  
sources are often  
evaluated for  
currency  
92.2 & 84.3%

Deciding on  
search terms is  
often a first step  
for an assignment  
74.5%

Passing the  
course & finishing  
the assignment  
are most  
important 98%

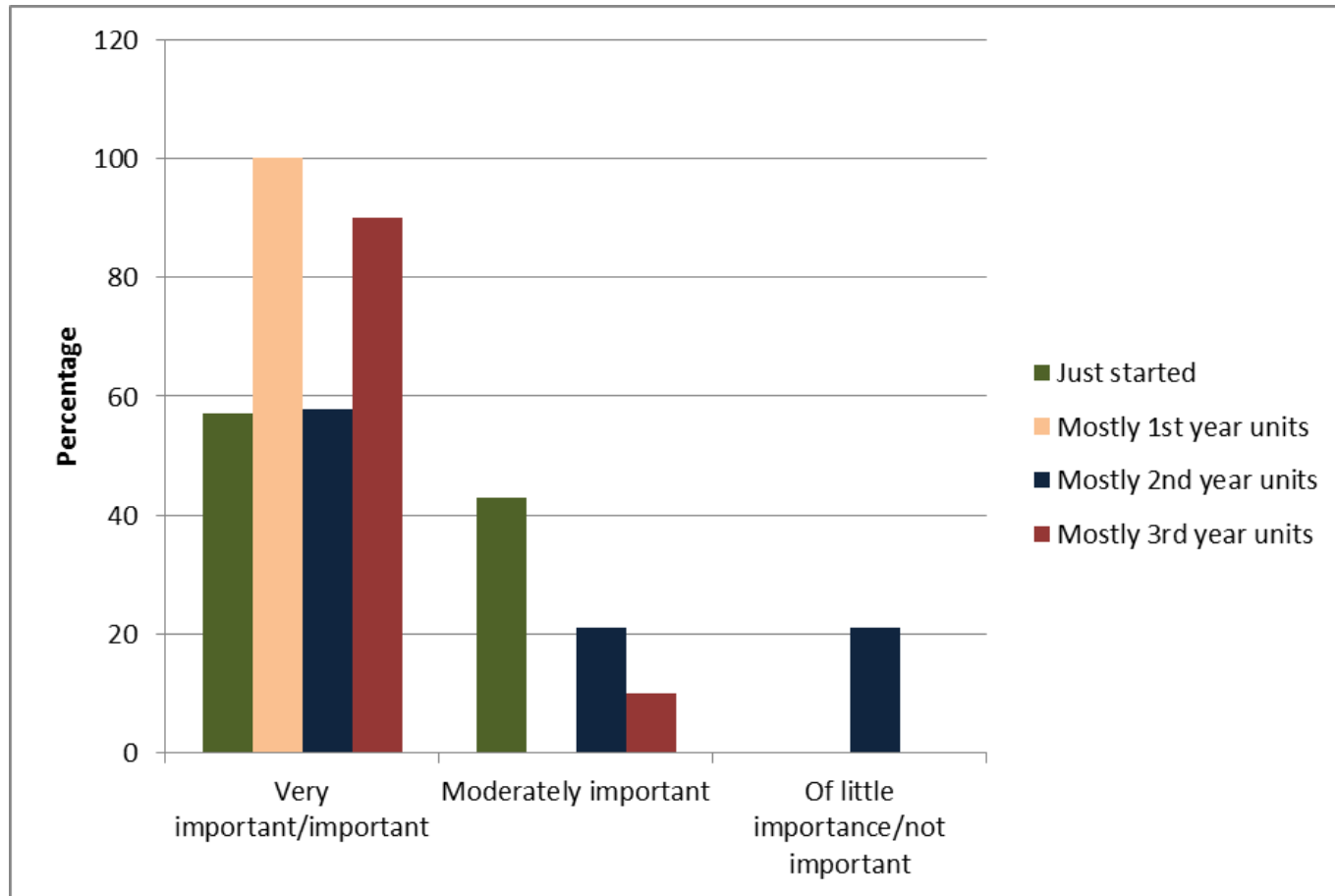
Nearly 30% of the undergraduates rarely or never  
consult their tutor about assignments

# Undergraduate Students Stage in Degree





# Undergraduate Students Stage in Degree



Finding answers to include in an assignment to demonstrate research

# Concluding remarks

- Formative assessment to improve student awareness of performance
- Develop study skills early in course
- Value of library and some web sources demonstrated & currency important
- Awareness of librarian as information consultant?
- New to study vs returning to study – experience?
- Undergraduates develop information literacy skills

Thank you