Finding information for Computing and Logistics

As you are probably aware, you will need to use a range of different resources to help you with your assignments and project. Information can come from many sources and the type of information you need varies depending on the question you are trying to answer. This guide will help you to find academic information to support your studies.

Sources of information
The academic sources of information that will probably be most useful are described below.

Books and eBooks
A book usually brings together information on one topic and is good starting place. You may find that books do not contain the very latest information or do not cover the detail you may need for a project.

Journal articles
Journals are academic publications which make new research available to the wider academic and professional communities. They appear in regular issues, containing a number of articles by different authors, but normally focusing on a particular discipline or subject. Journals are one of the most valuable sources of information available to you because:
  - new research is likely to be published here first
  - the articles are written by the original researchers
  - they usually have very high quality control standards

Journal articles are usually very formally structured and will include not just the research findings but also a review of the pre-existing literature on the topic and details of the research methodology.

Conference papers
Another way for researchers to publicise their work is through presenting papers at academic or scientific conferences. Conferences are usually organised by professional societies or organisations and allow academics to keep up to date with research in their field and to network with other researchers. Conference papers often cover research which is still in progress and papers from a recent conference will usually be a good way of finding the most up to date information.

Where to look
Your library is a good starting point for finding books. You could also try Google Books to preview eBooks. The full text of the books is not usually available but you can often see some useful sections.

To find journal articles and conference papers, use information search engines such as IEEE Xplore for computing or Emerald for management. You can link to these through your Moodle site. You could also try Google Scholar. More information on key resources and guidance on how to search them is available on the SHU library website for SLIIT - http://libguides.shu.ac.uk/sliit/