

When designing your system you will need to draw on information from a variety of sources. The Permaculture Tree gives a clear pictorial representation of the many disciplines Permaculture aims to combine into a holistic design. Don't be daunted though as you can start with what you already know, just like starting at the kitchen door and working your way out from there. The important message from this principle is not just to collect information but to put that knowledge into action. This is especially crucial when teaching, as actions always speak louder than words.

## 18. Demonstration is Authority Principle

Information is *the* critical potential resource. It *becomes* a resource only when obtained and acted upon.

**H1. Observe and interact**  
*“Beauty is in the eye of the beholder”*  
 By taking the time to engage with nature we can design solutions that suit our particular situation.

**HOLMGREN**

**Housing**

- passive solar, aspect
- power & water systems
- natural ventilation
- non-toxic materials
- integration with garden

**Backyard Permaculture Techniques**

- swales
- herb spirals
- keyhole beds
- wicking beds
- banana pits
- mulching
- composting
- raised beds
- trellises
- natural insecticides
- organic growing

**INFORMATION REQUIRED**

**Local Conditions**

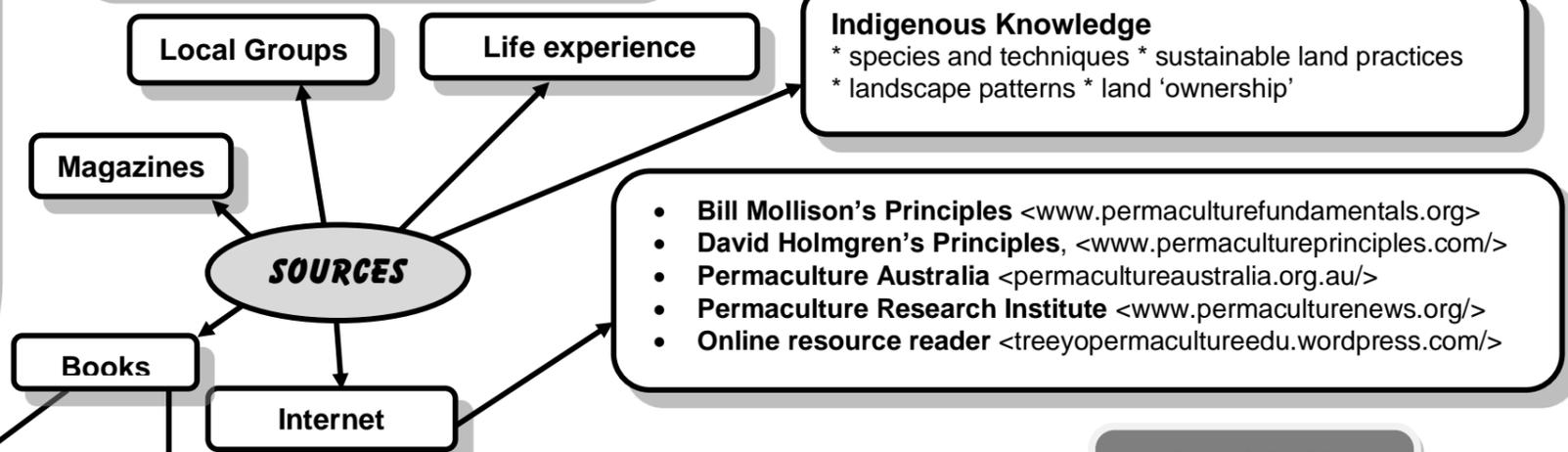
- climate
- mesoclimate
- microclimates
- rainfall
- winter/summer sun
- wind patterns
- soil types

**Local Sources**

- seeds
- plants
- mulch
- potting mix
- garden supplies

**Animals**

- species: e.g. chickens, ducks
- breeds: e.g. Muscovy, Indian runner, Campbell (ducks)
- uses: e.g. tractor system
- needs: e.g. food species



The main text books for the **Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC)** are **Permaculture: A Designers' Manual** (Mollison 1988) and **Introduction to Permaculture** (Mollison & Slay 1991). Available from <[www.tagari.com](http://www.tagari.com)>

In Australia the government CSIRO Publishing <[www.publish.csiro.au/](http://www.publish.csiro.au/)> is a great online source for books on a wide range of 'permaculture-related' topics, from agricultural science related topics to vegetable growing and garden design.

PRINCIPLES  
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