Information Management Research or Issues paper

What is a research/issues paper?
- A critical exploration of a topic or issue
- It may involve a response to a specific question, or it may be more open-ended, where you develop and discuss a particular perspective or argument on a topic or issue
- It is more than an essay as it involves a higher level or more critical discussion of the topic

What is the purpose of a research paper?
- It is used to situate your topic in the broader context of your field of study
- It demonstrates that you are aware of up-to-date and important knowledge of your topic
- It is used to develop your ability to locate and use relevant information from credible sources
- It is used to develop your critical thinking, reading and writing skills

What are you going to research?
- The "research" component of your research paper relates to searching for, reading and evaluating sources of information relevant to your topic
- You then present this "research" as a critical discussion or argument, in the appropriate format (see below)
- At this level of study you will use credible, scholarly publications, such as journal articles, research reports, government reports and text books.

What does a Research Paper look like?
Your Research Paper will usually be structured in an essay format:

Introduction
Provides context, states the argument/main idea and outlines the main points covered in the body
Body
A series of paragraphs - each paragraph focuses on one topic that is introduced, developed and supported with evidence and examples
Conclusion
A summary of the main argument presented in the body

NOTE: check your assignment instruction for any specific requirements.