

In this workshop, you will have time to identify databases relevant to your Masters dissertation and carry out some initial searches in these. The intention is that you find relevant academic material to support your research topic.

Specific guidance on individual databases is provided in separate worksheets. This worksheet provides an overview of the workshop content and specifically covers a number of useful features you will need to be aware of if you intend to use RefWorks software to manage references you find and to format your document.

Setting up an account in RefWorks was covered in Refresher Part 1: Essential Skills and is not repeated here. See also 'RefWorks 2.0 – a Quick Guide' at www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/qgrfw002.pdf

This workshop covers the following:

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1: Identify databases using Primo

To find scholarly and academic research papers to support your dissertation you will need to identify the most appropriate databases to use for your research topic. There is no one perfect database as material is listed in a wide range of different databases, with overlap and unique material in each source.

By using Primo, you will be able to identify databases that you will need to search as part of your literature review process.

1. Go to <http://primo.abdn.ac.uk:1701/> and log in using your University computer username and password
2. Click on **Find Databases** near the top of the screen. The **Find Databases** window will now open
3. Using the **Category** drop-down menu select the general subject area for your subject interest
4. Using the **Sub-category** drop-down menu select a more specific subject area of interest
5. Click on the **Find databases** button
6. An A-Z list of databases relevant to your subject is displayed
7. Click on the **Show Info** link beside a database to find out what it covers and the search rules to use
8. Write down the names of up to five databases that may be relevant to your dissertation research topic
9. Relevant Databases -
10. You will have a little time later to search some of these databases. At that time, you will right-click on the title of a database (and open in a new tab) to link out and search it.

2: Search Scopus (for journal articles and conference papers)

It is often a good strategy to start your search for journal articles and conference papers in either of the two largest databases – **Scopus** or **Web of Science**.

Scopus database
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use the Find Databases button in Primo to find and link out to Scopus (see section 1)2. Click on the plus symbol to add a second search box3. In the first box enter the keywords for your first idea from your planning sheet4. In the second box enter the keywords for your second idea from your planning sheet5. Click on the Search button6. How many hits do you get? _____7. When you are looking for a topic for the first time you may find it useful, after you have carried out the first keyword search, to limit your search to Document Type = Review. A review article in your subject area that has been published in the last few years can be very useful in pulling together a wide number of source papers in the topic area.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) In the left hand column look for Document Type and refine your search by this optionb) How many review articles do you have? _____8. Try out other search and limits options within Scopus and sort your results in different ways e.g. by Relevance, by Citations. A more detailed worksheet for this database is available – collect one as part of the workshop.9. Once you are in the position of having selected relevant references, refer to the Import Methods handout with this workshop and move the records to your RefWorks account. You can file these records in an appropriate folder within RefWorks – see section 4 of this worksheet for details.10. If you find relevant papers in full text save these to your H drive for later use.

3: Use other relevant databases (for journal articles and conference papers)

A literature review requires you to access a number of different sources to look for relevant research in your area. It is rare that you would find everything you need in one database as they all cover different journals and different timespans.

1. Collect worksheets for relevant databases you have identified in section 1 (page 1) of this worksheet.
2. Try searching in one of these databases. You can save full text items on your H drive and export relevant references to your RefWorks account - refer to the **Import Methods** handout with this workshop for instructions. You can file these records in an appropriate folder within RefWorks.
3. You will be able to continue your searches outside the workshop.

RefWorks: For future reference, export/import instructions for many Aberdeen University databases are available online at www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/importing.pdf

4: RefWorks

For help with references management software RefWorks, see our document **Managing References – RefWorks Part 1: Information Skills Practical Workshop**

5: Help and advice

If you have any problems with accessing RefWorks or using any of the features, please contact the IT Service Desk at <https://myit.abdn.ac.uk/> Tel.: 01224–273636 (also the 'Out of Hours' service number)

Information Consultants can also help with any subject-specific queries.

See www.abdn.ac.uk/library/support/contacts-106.php#panel162 for full contact details.