

# Information Skills Refresher 6: Dissertation research – overview, help and guidance

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May 2020



# Steps to Finding Reliable Information

- Step 1: Get ready to manage the information you find
- Step 2: Plan your search
- Step 3: What sort of information – sources?
- Step 4: Look for books - use Primo and ebook collections
- Step 5: Look for research level material, e.g. journal articles. Use the Find Databases option in Primo to identify relevant databases, then link and search
- Step 6: Look for support materials - use Google or other search engines
- Step 7: Keep track of your references, avoid plagiarism

In all processes: be aware of copyright and the need to avoid plagiarism

# Get organised!

- Plan your search – refine and adjust
- Check availability – if not available look for an alternative
- Citing, referencing and bibliographies. You have choices:
  - Keep notes on each of your readings
  - Compile a Word table or Excel spreadsheet
  - Create a reference database (on MS Access?)
  - Use index cards
  - Use bibliographic management software
- Plagiarism = copying = cheating
- Keep backing up your work
  - University home file space – VPN and VDI
- Timeline for submission



# Off-campus access

- We spend >£3m on library resources
- To access our electronic books, journals and databases you must prove that you are a student from University of Aberdeen (= authentication)
- Recommendation: use Primo > Find Databases to link out to databases
- Several authentication methods used by suppliers
  - Use **Shibboleth/Institution login** route if offered
    - Works at home and on-campus
  - Use **VDI (Virtual Desktop Infrastructure)** to make your personal machine look as if it is a classroom PC (with access to classroom software)
    - **Using the VDI is essential if you are off campus and want to access full-text in the OnePetro database**
    - Access to H: drive

See library guides and Toolkit for details



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Send to

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DATABASE

### OnePetro (SPE)

OnePetro is an online library that provides a simple way to search for and access a broad range of technical literature related to the oil and gas exploration and production industry. The following organisations have their technical documents available through OnePetro: American Petroleum Institute (API), American Rock Mechanics Association (ARMA), American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM), Offshore Technology Conference (OTC), NACE International (corrosion engineers), Petroleum Society of Canada (PETSOC), Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts (SPWLA), The Society of Underwater Technology (SUT), World Petroleum Council (WPC).

[Available Online](#) >

### View Online

#### Full text availability

#### OnePetro (SPE)

Online version available for university members only. Access off-campus is via the VDI



### Details

#### Title

OnePetro (SPE)

#### Summary

OnePetro is an online library that provides a simple way to search for and access a broad range of technical literature related to the oil and gas exploration and production industry. The following organisations have their technical documents available through OnePetro: American Petroleum Institute (API), American Rock Mechanics Association (ARMA), American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM), Offshore Technology Conference (OTC), NACE International (corrosion engineers), Petroleum Society of Canada (PETSOC), Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts (SPWLA), The Society of Underwater Technology (SUT), World Petroleum Council (WPC).  
Publication coverage: 1927 - current.

#### Publisher

Society of Petroleum Engineers SPE

#### Language

English

#### Shelfmark

e Database

Databases by

> Access Routes

> All Ebook Collections

> All General

> Arts and Humanities

> Engineering

> Law

> Life Sciences

> Medicine and Health

> Physical Sciences

> Social Sciences



DATABASE

## Scopus (Elsevier)

Scopus is one of the largest multidisciplinary databases that we have access to. Subject coverage is scientific, medical, technical and social science. Scopus contains more than 70 million records covering articles from peer-reviewed titles from 20,000 international publishers. More than 4,000 open access journals are included. References go back to 1996. Records go back to 1788.

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### Full text availability

Scopus (Elsevier)



Online version available for university members only. This requires an institutional login off-campus



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Publisher

Elsevier

Language

English

Shelfmark

e Database

Source

Library Catalog

Databases by

> Access Routes

> All Ebook Collections

> All General Collections

> Arts and Humanities

> Engineering and Technology

> Law

> Life Sciences

> Medicine and Health

> Physical Sciences

> Social Sciences



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Make content more accessible on your devices at home  
University Systems and Software

IT Induction for New Students  
All the IT essentials you need to get started

Accessibility for Authors/Creators  
Guidance about making your content accessible

Google

Email for Students (UoA & PGT)  
Student email service Outlook, hosted by University Services and Schools

Printing  
Use printers on campus, even from your own device

MyCurriculum  
Our online course selection system

Library  
Find out about libraries available at UoA and how to use them  
Productivity Tools

SafeZone  
Free safety app to use on campus

Student Learning Service  
Reach your academic potential

Remote Access  
Off campus access to drives, software and electronic resources



## Accessing electronic information

Ewan Grant, March 2020

QG DBS005 [[www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/qgdb005.pdf](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/qgdb005.pdf)]

The Library at the University of Aberdeen provide resources in a variety of formats and many are available electronically. Most can be accessed by members of the University from any location via the Internet. This information guide provides general guidance on accessing electronic resources (e-journals, e-books and databases) which the University pays for.

### 1. Accessing e-resources from university owned and managed computers

University computers in classrooms, libraries, offices and halls of residence have been set up by IT Services to access our e-resources, so there is no need to reconfigure them.

What to do:

**Either use Primo**

1. For databases: go to [Primo](#), our portal to e-resources, open the **Find Databases** link at the top of the screen, and search for the database you require.
2. For e-journals: click on the **Journal Search** tab in Primo. Here, you can type the title of a journal into the search box. Alternatively, click on **New Search**, enter two or three words from an article's title into the simple search box and select **Articles+** from the options that appear as you type.
3. For individual e-books: carry out a regular search of Primo. Enter two or three significant words from the title of the book together with the family name of the author, in any order, into the simple search box.
4. Use the link provided in the results list to access and search a database or e-journal, or read an e-book.
5. **Login** if prompted.

**NOTE:** Many of our electronic resources are accessed via a password controlled service called **Shibboleth**, and Primo will link you through to the correct login screen whether you are working on or off campus.

**Never use Google** to find and link to our e-resources. You may experience difficulty in access and be asked to pay for full text material.

# Accessing resources: detailed information is available in Toolkit and in library guides

# Help and guidance



## Library: Subject support

- Information Consultants & Information Adviser (see next slide)
- Subject staff
  - The Sir Duncan Rice Library: [subjectteam@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:subjectteam@abdn.ac.uk), or [library@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:library@abdn.ac.uk)
  - Medical Library [medlib@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:medlib@abdn.ac.uk)
  - Taylor Library [lawlib@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:lawlib@abdn.ac.uk)
- Worksheets in our wiki (FinditFast!)  
<http://finditfastlibraryworkshops.pbworks.com>
- Library web pages  
<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/support/information-skills-179.php>

## IT difficulties

- Email: [servicedesk@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:servicedesk@abdn.ac.uk)





# Library: Subject contacts

- Arts & Humanities
  - Ewan Grant – e.grant@abdn.ac.uk
- Business & Law
  - Janet MacKay – j.i.mackay@abdn.ac.uk
- Dentistry, Medicine & Medical Sciences
  - Mel Bickerton – m.bickerton@abdn.ac.uk
- Education & Social Science
  - Claire Molloy - c.a.l.molloy@abdn.ac.uk
- Engineering, Life & Physical Sciences
  - Susan McCourt – s.mccourt@abdn.ac.uk
- General
  - Eleni Borompoka – eleni.boro@abdn.ac.uk

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/support/contacts-106.php#panel162>



# Sessions in the Refresher programme

- Information Skills: Parts 1 - 6
- Microsoft Word: IT Training & Documentation Team
  - Adding Style to your Dissertation
  - The Power of Section Breaks
- Academic writing: Student Learning Service
  - Planning and Writing a Dissertation
  - Writing a Literature Review

# Action – get started

- Know where to get help if you need it
- Ask for help as early as possible – we'll do our best to support you
- Contact us using your University email account – you'll receive our out-of-office messages (if relevant)



[https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library  
/support/information-skills-  
179.php](https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/support/information-skills-179.php)

