Library induction for Postgraduate Research students: FAQs

Can I access the Library's e-resources when off-campus?

Access to the library's resources (e-books, online journal articles and other materials) is possible from anywhere in the world. You will have to sign in to Primo before you begin searching. In some databases and e-book collections you may also have to click on 'Institutional Sign In' when you are off campus and abroad. Sometimes you are presented with the option to select a location type: look for UK management federation then select University of Aberdeen, as you are still a student with UoA, regardless of your actual location.

How will I know if I have to use the VDI when I am off-campus?

Go to Primo and the Find Databases tab. Type into the search box the name of the database you are using off-campus and in which your access to the full-text of an e-resources doesn't seem possible. Click on the name of that database to be taken to the View Online page. Under the name of the database, you will see a note about off-campus access.
If it says "This requires an institutional login off-campus" it means you can just sign in and it will be possible for you to access the full text of a resource on that database whether you are on- or off campus.
If it says: "Access off-campus is via the VDI" it means you have to install to your personal computer a piece of software that makes it appear as if you are on campus. You will then be able to access content from that database when off-campus. When you are on-campus, you won't have to do that.

For guidance on how to use the VDI, please see:
https://www.abdn.ac.uk/toolkit/systems/remote-access/

As a student at the University of Aberdeen can I borrow from other libraries?

You can borrow print items from other libraries, as part of the SCONUL scheme. For more information, please see:
https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/using-libraries/accessing-our-libraries-145.php#panel377

Can I borrow a PhD theses from another library or is SCONUL only for books?

This depends on the institution. Most libraries are now moving away from lending physical copies of theses.

To look for theses online use the ProQuest theses platform. To search what theses we have e-access to, go to Primo https://abdn.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/ then click on the Find Databases button above the search bar and type into the search box: ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I

Can I get an e-copy of a journal article as part of the Inter Library Loans procedure?

Yes, most (individual) article/chapter requests are supplied as PDF. Loans of whole books are also possible. For more information on the ILL process, please see:
https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/support/interlibrary-loans-182.php

How can I set up a PIN for using the self-issue machines?

Go to Primo https://abdn.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/ and sign in, then click on the down arrow next to your name in the top right corner. Click on Library Card then you will see some options under the blue line – select Personal details. There's an option there to 'Update your PIN'. Select it and type in any four digits. Alternatively, you can come and see us on one of the staffed floors and we'll set up your PIN for you. We have staff of floors 1, 4, 5 and 6 of the Sir Duncan Rice Library.

How can I book a place on the Information Skills sessions?

Our Library skills sessions have been added to the coursebooking system. Go to https://abdn.ac.uk/coursebooking and make sure you change the category to 'Library' when browsing the courses available.

Is training offered on LaTeX?

Please contact the PGR School for information. Staff will be able to advise.

Will I have access to my RefWorks account and references after graduation?

Yes, that is possible. You will have to change your status and associated email address in your RefWorks account before graduation. You should be presented with the option to change your role from Researcher to 'Alumnus/Alumna'.

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