Ulster University
Finance and Information Services Directorate
Library

Effective use of the Library for Doctoral Students
Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

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<th>Tuesday, 8th October 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>10.00am – 1.00pm MM221, Library, Magee Campus</td>
<td>10.00am - 1:00pm Library IT Suite, H320 Coleraine Campus</td>
<td>2.15pm – 5.00pm Information Skills Room, 13C37, Library Jordanstown Campus</td>
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Learning Outcomes

By the end of the session today you will be able to:

- Identify and locate the wide range of Ulster University doctoral student Library resources.
- Search efficiently and effectively in appropriate databases.
- Construct and save an effective search strategy.
- Identify tools and sources to analyse research impact.
- Keep up to date.
How to Access Library Resources

The Library provides access to a wide range of resources and services. You will find links to them all on:

Library Homepage https://www.ulster.ac.uk/library
University Portal https://portal.ulster.ac.uk/ (select the Library tile)

- From the **Quick Links** section of the Library Homepage, select the resource you wish to access; click on **Library Catalogue** to search for print books and to access eBooks, click on **Electronic Journals** to search and access full text electronic journals, click on **Databases** to access our database collection etc.

- On selection, if you see this screen, enter Ulster in the “Find your organization” search box and click on the Ulster University link:

- Enter your **Ulster University email address** and **Ulster University network password** (the same password as the Portal, IT workstations)
The Subject Guides link can be found on the **Quick Links** menu and will provide you with help and advice about locating and using Library resources and services tailored specifically to your subject area.

Today we will be using the **Life and Health Sciences Research Support subject guide**, guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/LHS/research/
Finding Information

1. Planning an effective search strategy

Why is this important?

▪ Discover what has already been published in your subject area
▪ Avoid significant gaps in your knowledge base
▪ To get worthwhile and relevant results

Where to look for Information

1. Define your search terms clearly and simply

Begin by noting down your research topic. For example, the effectiveness of exercise in the treatment of fibromyalgia.
2. Analyse your statement

Think about your question, what are the main concepts and can you think of any synonyms or alternatives? Look at other reviews on the topics: what search terms have they used? The Cochrane Library is an excellent resource for health and medical subjects.

Start to build your search strategy.

Key concepts or phrases
▪ exercise
▪ fibromyalgia

Synonyms or alternatives
▪ exercise or walking or sport or jogging
▪ fibromyalgia or fibrositis

Spelling variations and terminology
Remember Americanisms
▪ etiology or etiology
▪ Paracetamol or acetaminophen
▪ Tumour or tumor
▪ Behavior or behaviour
▪ Physical therapy or physiotherapy

3. Implement your search strategy using advanced search techniques

Searching in the databases
Select resources appropriate to your topic
Subject Librarians can help with this
Databases are all different BUT
The principles of searching are USUALLY the same

AND
This means that all terms must appear in the results
and will NARROW your search and reduce results.
e.g. exercise AND fibromyalgia

OR
This means that any of the alternative terms can appear
and will BROADEn the search out and increase results.
e.g. exercise OR walking OR jogging
**NOT/AND NOT**
This will **EXCLUDE** terms
This will **NARROW** the search down
Use this with caution! You may miss results you want to read.
e.g. exercise **NOT** physical therapy

**Truncation**
This will help you to find all variations of a word
Most databases use the * symbol but not all, always check the HELP section to be sure
e.g. exercis* will find exercise, exercising, exercises

**Phrase Searching**
Use quotation marks to search for an exact phrase in the order entered.
e.g. “diffuse myofascial pain syndrome”; “muscular rheumatism”.

**Proximity / Adjacency Operators**
Use to search for two or more words within a specified number of words of each other, in any order.
Individual databases use different operators, always check the HELP section for further information.
e.g. myofascial **adj3** syndrome in Medline (Ovid),
will search for myofascial **and** syndrome within 3 words of each other in either direction, finding a phrase such as myofascial pain syndrome.

**Wildcards**
Use a wildcard operator to replace a single character within a word.
Most databases use the ? symbol but not all, always check the HELP section to be sure.
e.g. organi?q?ation will find organisation and organization

Our Advanced Search Tips webpage displays the key search techniques (truncation symbols, wildcards, proximity operators etc.) for the main Life and Health Sciences databases (guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/LHS/research/searchtips)

**Remember**
- Plan your search strategy in advance
- Be prepared to be flexible and remember searching is an iterative and time-consuming process.
- Make use of the HELP features in databases

**Evaluate and record**
- Evaluate your findings
- Record your search strategy
- Record your results
It is very important that you save your search strategy and most databases have a function that enables you to do this. All you need to do is create a personal account within each one.

In addition, let your research come to you: in many databases, saving your search allows you to set up an alert. You will receive an email with details of new articles added to the database which match your search words.

You may be asked to produce your search strategy at some point, especially if undertaking evidence based research and you will have to produce it in your finished thesis. Also if you publish, most journals will also require the inclusion of at least one strategy so that it may be re-run and evaluated.

2. Getting Started

Before you start, check that no recent research has been published on your topic. This is essential to do if carrying out systematic reviews and to avoid unnecessary duplication of research. A scoping search of the main databases and a search of EThOS, Electronic Theses Online Service, (https://ethos.bl.uk/Home.do) should be undertaken. For health and medical subjects, the Cochrane Library and PROSPERO (International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews) https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/ should also be searched.

Books and Journals

What is the established research on a topic? Start with a book. Search the Ulster Catalogue and Library Hub Discover (a database of 133 UK and Irish academic, national & specialist library catalogues https://discover.libraryhub.jisc.ac.uk/) for up-to-date textbooks.

Looking for a key journal? Most of our journals are available electronically. Use the Electronic Journals link to search by journal title. However, a small number of titles are available in print format and you will need to use the Library Catalogue to search for these.

3. Where to search? Databases and beyond

Location of Databases

From the Quick Links, click on Databases to access the Library Databases A-Z list.
The example below shows how to access Web of Science from the Databases link. From the A-Z list of Databases click on the letter W to access Web of Science. Click on the database title to access it.

Use databases to access a wide range of information sources including;

1. Journal Articles
2. Books
3. Newspaper Articles
4. Theses
5. Websites

Most contain bibliographic information only and to link out to the full text you will need to use the UFind it button which appears with each citation. (Please note, UFind it is not available for every database). Some databases do contain direct links to the full text, so look out for buttons like this or this.

To check on the most important databases in your subject area, use the Life and Health Sciences Subject Guides, guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/LHS. Looking for a few journal articles to get your research started? USearch is a good place to start.

Comprehensive guides, including workbooks and videos can be found on the Life and Health Sciences Research Support guide, guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/LHS/research, and on each specific subject guide as well as from each of the databases themselves. Databases are collections of, in the main, journal articles and are where you will find the bulk of primary research.

The main health, sport and medical-related databases are:

Medline (Ovid) – medicine, healthcare and nutrition
**Embase** – medicine and pharmacological content  
**CINAHL Plus** – nursing and allied health  
**PsycINFO** – psychology and the related fields  
**AMED** – complementary therapies, allied health and palliative care  
**SportDiscus** - sport, physical fitness, exercise, sports medicine, physical education,

**AMED, EMBASE, Medline and PsycINFO all sit on the Ovid platform.**  
**In order to make sure your search is systematic and reflects evidence based practice you cannot cross-search at research level.**  
**Each database must be searched individually and the search strategy recorded.**

You may also need to use resources outside of these fields and will find a full list of these on each individual subject guide. The main ones of interest include:

**ASSIA** (Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts) - education, health, psychology  
**Web of Science** – Multidisciplinary; includes Journal Citation Reports  
**Scopus** – Multidisciplinary; largest database of peer reviewed journals and citation searching

The main geography and environmental sciences databases are:

**Web of Science**  
**ASSIA**  
**Environmental Management**  
**Proquest Complete Collection** – multidisciplinary collection of individual databases which can be search as a whole or separately  
**SciTech Collection (Proquest)**  
**Scopus**

We will be looking at two databases in detail

- Medline Ovid  
- Web of Science

**Medical Subject Headings and the use of built in Indexes**

The main health and medical databases use controlled vocabulary to organise content;  
Medline uses **MeSH** (medical subject headings)  
CINAHL Plus uses **CINAHL Headings**  
EMBASE uses **Emtree**  
These are lists of standardised, preferred terms used by each database to organise and describe topics, regardless of the terminology used by the article’s authors.
For example, articles written on *polio* and *infantile paralysis* will both be classified under CINAHL Plus’ and Medline’s preferred Subject Heading *Poliomyelitis*. There is a degree of similarity between the indexing terms used but it is not a universal system; for example, while CINAHL Plus classifies *physical activity* under the heading *Physical Activity*, Medline classifies it under *Exercise*. As indexing may differ between databases each must be searched separately.

**Additional Resources**

You may also need to search additional resources including:
- Key journals
- Key authors
- Grey Literature for example; conference proceedings, policy documents, clinical trial registers and open access sources such as OpenGrey.
- Resources from key stakeholders, for example regulators, charities and special interest groups.

Find more information on additional resources on the Evidence Based Practice and Systematic Reviews Subject Guide. [guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/LHS/evidence](http://guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/LHS/evidence)

**Access Issues**

If you experience any access problems in relation to the Library’s electronic resources, you may find the Library’s Off Campus Access guide helpful: [guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/offcampus](http://guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/offcampus) or contact your Librarian with any queries.

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**4. Document Delivery Service**

[library.ulster.ac.uk/documentdelivery/](http://library.ulster.ac.uk/documentdelivery/)

If you require a book or a journal article which is not available from the Library, you can make use of the Document Delivery Service.

Requests should be made using the online request form at [catalogue.library.ulster.ac.uk/ill/search/local](http://catalogue.library.ulster.ac.uk/ill/search/local) (you will need to log in to view this form). A guide to completing your online request is available at [library.ulster.ac.uk/documentdelivery/completing_docdel_form.pdf](http://library.ulster.ac.uk/documentdelivery/completing_docdel_form.pdf)

**Document Delivery Contacts:**

J Atkinson October 2019
Organising Information

Recording details

It is very important to record accurately details of any material that you consult in order to:

- Retrieve it at a later date.
- Use it for referencing – both for citing references in your text and for compiling the bibliography at the end of your piece of work
- To share with others
- As part of your search strategy – this is especially important when carrying out any sort of literature or systematic review as you may be asked to include an example strategy.

Referencing guidelines

The Faculty of Life and Health Sciences at Ulster has developed guidelines for referencing. These cover both the Harvard and American Psychological Association (APA) style and can be accessed from the Referencing and RefWorks tab on all Life and Health Sciences Library Subject Guides.

Useful textbook
You can record your references manually or by using an online bibliographic management system, such as RefWorks. Find it on the A-Z Database list.

**RefWorks training sessions 2019/20**

Training sessions will be offered on a fortnightly basis on all campuses.

Sessions will be advertised and bookable on the the Library Home Page (alternatively go direct to [https://www.ulster.ac.uk/library/updates/events/refworks-training-workshops](https://www.ulster.ac.uk/library/updates/events/refworks-training-workshops)).

Booking is advised for all sessions but essential for evening sessions as classes will not run if there are no applicants.

All Coleraine RefWorks classes will be held in Library IT Suite, H320.
All Magee RefWorks classes will be held in the Room MM221 in the Library.
All Jordanstown RefWorks classes will be held in Room 13C37 in the Library.

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**Research and Impact**

Whilst you may not be publishing your research just now, below are some links to get you started on your journey:

**Open Access and Ulster University's Research Portal**

For the next REF (Research Excellence Framework) authors' final peer-reviewed manuscripts (journal articles and conference proceedings) must be Open Access. Our Library guide to Open Access will provide you with all the basic information you need [guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/openaccess](http://guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/openaccess).

Ulster University's Research Portal, [https://pure.ulster.ac.uk/](https://pure.ulster.ac.uk/), is an open access online repository of research material created by researchers at Ulster University. It contains references (and many links) to journal articles, books, conference papers, data, reports, working papers and more.

**Bibliometrics**

Bibliometrics are quantitative measures used to assess research impact and journal quality.

The **Journal Citation Reports (JCR)** service allows you to evaluate and compare journals using citation data and will provide you with **Journal Impact Factors**.
Use **Scopus** to analyse and compare journals and find the **CiteScore**, **SNIP** and **SJR** for selected titles. Use the **Author search** feature to find your Scopus **h-index** and to check your indexed publications. Both JCR and Scopus are accessible from our A-Z listing of databases.

PlumX provides an instant view of research impact across a number of social media apps, including Facebook mentions, PDF downloads, screen captures and online citations. Look out for the characteristic Plum print embedded within USearch:

![PlumX Metrics](PlumX.png)

Our **Bibliometrics & Citation Analysis Library guide** will give you further information on this subject [http://guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/citations](http://guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/citations).

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**Keeping Up to Date**

**Email Discussion Lists**
**JISCmail** [jiscmail.ac.uk](http://jiscmail.ac.uk) is an example of an academic email discussion list database. Members of a discussion list are able to discuss information relating to their particular area of interest.

**Alerting Services**
Many of the databases that the Library subscribes to will offer an email alerting service based on selected journal titles, conference papers, subject keywords or author names. This will allow you to get regular updates for a search strategy that you have created and saved within a specific database. Use the help facility for each database to check if an alerting facility is available and locate the instructions to help you to set the service up.

**Zetoc Alert** is one example of a database which provides an alerting service. The database provides access to over 36,000 journals using the British Library’s electronic table of contents.

You can also set up alerts or RSS feeds from publishers of journal collections e.g. Wiley-Blackwell or SAGE Journals or with an individual journal. You may need to set up a personal account with each publisher to do this.

**Twitter**
Use Twitter to connect with and follow authors, academics and organisations in your research area and to publicise and share research. You can also participate in
discussions with other postgraduate researchers using various hash-tags such as #phdchat

**Social Media at Ulster**
Keep up to date with the Library:

**Library Blogs**
[http://library.ulster.ac.uk/info/blogs.php](http://library.ulster.ac.uk/info/blogs.php) - select Researchers or Life and Health Sciences

**Library Twitter Feed**
[https://twitter.com/UlsterUniLib/](https://twitter.com/UlsterUniLib/)

**Further Support**
You may also find the following sites useful:

**EThOS** (Electronic Theses Online Service) - Search over 500,000 doctoral theses. A growing number of full text electronic and digitised theses can be downloaded to your desktop
[ethos.bl.uk/Home](http://ethos.bl.uk/Home)

Digital and Information Literacy Skills guide - an excellent site with lots of useful links and information
[guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/informationliteracyskills](http://guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/informationliteracyskills)

**Library Travel Fund**
[library.ulster.ac.uk/info/travel.php](http://library.ulster.ac.uk/info/travel.php)

**Sconul Access**
[library.ulster.ac.uk/info/sconul.php](http://library.ulster.ac.uk/info/sconul.php)

**ALCID Scheme**
[library.ulster.ac.uk/info/alcid.php](http://library.ulster.ac.uk/info/alcid.php)
Further Reading

Use the Library Catalogue to search for these books:


