Research skills and the University Library

European Languages and Cultures

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Welcome to The University Library
Search and research: information seeking as a research skill

- Not only the first step, but throughout your research
- Can affect the quality of your research
- Can improve the efficiency of your work
- Examples of important academic skills involving information seeking
  - Literature review
  - Annotated bibliography
  - Citation
  - Referencing
  - Avoiding plagiarism
“Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it. When we enquire into any subject, the first thing we have to do is to know what books have treated of it. This leads us to look at catalogues, and at the backs of books in libraries.”

-- Samuel Johnson, James Boswell’s *The Life of Samuel Johnson*, 1775
Six common information-seeking activities

- Starting – with the Library
- Chaining – often through ‘snowballing’
- Browsing – not only contents but also references, bibliographies, indexes, etc.
- Filtering – evaluating, filtering information obtained
- Extracting – saving, managing sources
- Monitoring – keep abreast of developments
Role of the Library in your University life

“The true university these days is a Collection of Books”

-- Thomas Carlyle (University Rector 1865), On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History, 1841
Make the best use of the Library resources

- Overview of Library facilities, services and resources
- Finding books, articles and other materials on your course reading lists
- Finding resources beyond your reading lists (e.g. for writing research essays)
- How to get access to resources beyond UoE if necessary
- Search demonstration
Using the Library

- **Main Library** [www.ed.ac.uk/is/main-library](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/main-library)
  Open 24/7, collection locations, study space, computing, self-service laptop loan, Makerspace

- **Classification**
  By subject (i.e. not by language or by material type)
  Library of Congress, section P for Language and Literature: [http://edin.ac/2xEq1LI](http://edin.ac/2xEq1LI)

- **Book borrowing** [www.ed.ac.uk/is/library-borrowing](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/library-borrowing)
  Types of loans, 30 books, 4 weeks for Standard Loan, renewals, Library Annexe

- **HUB** [www.ed.ac.uk/is/hub](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/hub)
  For course books, Short Loan =1 week, Reserve =3 hours + overnight loan

- **uCreate** [http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/ucreate](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/ucreate)
  Multimedia facilities e.g. scanning, video editing, photoshop

- **Printing** [www.ed.ac.uk/is/printing](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/printing)
  Cloud printing -- printing from University computers
  EveryonePrint -- printing from your home or from your mobile devices
Finding resources

- Start search with DiscoverEd
- DiscoverEd & Google
- DiscoverEd & databases
- E-Journals A-Z
- Library subject guides
- Resources beyond the Library
DiscoverEd – coverage

http://discovered.ed.ac.uk
Have you used DiscoverEd fully?

- **Sign in – benefits:**
  a) Get more search results (from database content)
  b) View ‘My Account’ and renew loans
  c) Request books
  d) Save your search results using ‘My Favourites’

- **Use ‘Advanced Search’ to narrow your search**

- **Try phrase search and Boolean search**

- **‘Expand’ or ‘Refine’ search results on the left**

- **Browse e-journals A-Z list**

- **‘Virtual Browse”**

- **‘Locate’ button for printed books**
DiscoverEd search examples
(as of 1\textsuperscript{st} October 2018)

Simple search

\textit{medieval French literature} = 240,505 (236,803 if not including Old French)
\textit{medi\ae val French literature} = 240,429 (236,727 if excluding Old French),
almost the same

Boolean search

\textit{medieval AND French AND literature} = 236,722
\textit{Medi*eval French literature} = 238,106
Molière AND mask = 5,304
Molière AND (mask OR masque) = 6,745

Phrase search

"Medieval French literature“ = 2,116
Check box “Expand results beyond Library Collections” = 2,659

See difference between \textit{medicine in literature} (3,281,046) and “\textit{medicine in literature}” (4,486)

Which search term should be used? Why?
Databases - coverage

- Full text e-journal articles
- E-books
- Abstracts
- Citation information
- Newspaper articles – historical and current
- Index to conference proceedings
- Dissertations
- Images
- Archives
- and more…
Why to use Library databases?

- Advantage of using databases: searchability, full texts, 24/7 access, up-to-date
- Help find out what research literature there is on a topic
- Not all the databases are in DiscoverEd!
  - e.g. *Times Literary Supplement*
  - *Translation Studies Bibliography*
  ......
Accessing databases

How to find a relevant database and gain access

Where

- Databases A-Z list
- Databases by subject
- Subject guides

How

- EASE
- MyEd
- VPN
Recommended databases

- Go to Databases by Subject for subject related databases
  [http://edin.ac/2zlHyeq](http://edin.ac/2zlHyeq)

Examples of generic databases for DELC

- *Early European Books Online* – over 30,000 e-books from the earliest printing to the end of the 17th century
- *Nineteenth Century Collections Online* – European Literature 1790-1840 (containing 6,504 French and 3,640 German books)
- *Literature Online* (full text works, criticism, reference. Containing hundreds of works by European authors, e.g. Molière, Ibsen)
- *Gale Literary Sources*
- *MLA International Bibliography* (index of journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, etc. in all language and literature areas)
- *Factiva* (hundreds of newspapers in their original languages)
- *ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global*
- *JSTOR* (full text journal archive excluding the last few years)
- Web of Science (journal indexing, up to date)
Basic search tips

- Define search need and scope
  
  topic, resource type, date, language, country …

- Synonyms
  
  e.g. adolescent, teenager

- Different forms of spelling
  
  medieval, mediaeval; singular and plural nouns

- Truncation
  
  poe* = poet, poets, poetic, poems

- Wildcard
  
  wom?n = woman or women

- Linking search terms with AND, OR, NOT
  
  so called ‘Boolean search’

- Snowballing
Boolean Search

- **And**: Records contain both A and B
- **Or**: Records contain either A or B
- **Not**: Records contain A but not B
A more sophisticated Boolean search example:

Shakespeare AND (wom?n OR gender OR female OR feminine OR sexuality) NOT (poe* OR sonnet*)

What is my research topic?
Library Resource Plus

Can’t find what you need in the Library?

- Interlibrary Loan service (ILL)  
  [www.ed.ac.uk/is/inter-library](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/inter-library)
- Student Book Recommendation Form  
  [www.ed.ac.uk/is/RAB](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/RAB)
- National Library of Scotland  
  [http://www.nls.uk/catalogues](http://www.nls.uk/catalogues)
Internet resources

Good Googling:

• Use advanced search
• Try these guides:
  Google Help Center  http://support.google.com
• Use Google Scholar  http://scholar.google.com
  (You can associate Google Scholar with our Library resources!)
• Virtual Training Suite – developing internet search skills
  http://www.vtstutorials.co.uk/ (look for “Modern Languages”)
• Internet Detective -- Learn to discern the good, the bad and the ugly for your online research
  http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/detective
Study resources

- Sage Research Methods
  [http://srmo.sagepub.com.ezproxy.is.ed.ac.uk](http://srmo.sagepub.com.ezproxy.is.ed.ac.uk)
- Cite Them Right
  [http://www.citethemrightonline.com.ezproxy.is.ed.ac.uk](http://www.citethemrightonline.com.ezproxy.is.ed.ac.uk)
- Library research guide (by MLA)
  [https://oncomouse.github.io/literary-research-guide/](https://oncomouse.github.io/literary-research-guide/)
- Study development for undergraduates
  [http://edin.ac/16xSwJ0](http://edin.ac/16xSwJ0)
- Digital skills training
  [www.ed.ac.uk/is/skills](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/skills)
  Lynda.com online courses
  [www.ed.ac.uk/is/lynda](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/lynda)
Contacts

Helpdesk and Helpline

- Face-to-face: Visit Main Library Helpdesk
- Web form: [http://www.ishelpline.ed.ac.uk/forms](http://www.ishelpline.ed.ac.uk/forms)
- Email: IS.Helpline@ed.ac.uk
- Phone: 0131 650 3409 (Library issues)
  0131 651 5151 (IT issues)
- Self service portal: [http://ed.unidesk.ac.uk/tas/public](http://ed.unidesk.ac.uk/tas/public)

Help with resource questions

Library-Academic-Support@ed.ac.uk
Thank you and good luck!

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LLC Librarian Blog
http://libraryblogs.is.ed.ac.uk/llclibrarian