Glossary of library terms

The Library Web site uses a range of terms and jargon, this section is intended to familiarise you with some of the terminology used. You can use this Glossary for reference purposes at any time.

Article
An article is a short text which usually focuses on a particular topic or research area, articles are printed within regularly published Journal issues (see ‘Journal’ below). The Library provides a range of search tools to locate and download digitally accessible E-Journal articles.

Collection
The University Library subscribes to a wide range of commercial online collections, providing electronic books (E-Books), electronic Journals (E-Journals) and other resources. The University does not host or maintain these digital collections; instead these are hosted and maintained by external, commercial providers. Access to these collections is provided via the Library Web pages. Important E-Journal collections include Emerald and JSTOR. Since these are commercial, secure collections, it is required to log into the Library before visiting or searching these collections. If you try to visit the homepage of these collections on the Internet you will not be able to log in, since we provide access to these protected external sites via the Library Web site.

Conference Proceeding
Conference Proceedings can include basic lists of topics discussed at conferences, article-style texts delivered by conference delegates or presentations. Conference Proceedings can often be found within normal E-Journal collections.
Discover

Discover (also called EBSCO Discovery Service) is our main multi-source platform for searching across a range of scholarly sources from a single search, including full text E-Journal articles, E-Books, reports and other content. You can access Discover from many locations around the Library Web pages.

Bibliographic Databases (indexes)

Also called Bibliographic Indexes or just Databases, these provide a world-wide, multi source search across scholarly sources, including hardcopy (print) and digital documents. Bibliographic Databases are slightly different to full text collections, since their primary aim is to provide information about scholarly resources, rather than full text access. Bibliographic Databases can be useful for researchers who need to explore a particular specialist topic in detail, this could involve locating results via consultation with the Library, visiting a local Library or another other online service. However many Bibliographic Databases do provide access to full text resources via ‘Is it @ Liverpool’ links (see below). Major Bibliographic Databases include SCOPUS and Web of Knowledge.

E-Book

A book which has been made available online by a publisher, the University provides access to many thousands of Electronic Books (E-Books) in digital format via a range of licensed commercial collections. The Library provides a range of search tools to locate and download E-Books.

E-Journal

A journal is a short, magazine type publication which is published in a new ‘issue’ on a regular basis throughout the year. A journal typically contains recent writing and research on a particular area of interest or scholarly area. Whilst journals are often printed, the University also provides access to many thousands of Electronic Journals (E-Journals) in digital format via a range of licensed commercial collections.

EZproxy

EZproxy is simply a name for the login system used by the Library, you may see an ‘EZproxy’ login screen when accessing some Library resources, if you are directed to an EZproxy login screen, please log in using your University username and password.

Is it @ Liverpool

When accessing Library resources, you may see a ‘Is it @ Liverpool’ icon (above), this is a system we use for linking from some search systems to your required article
or resource, for example, if you search the ‘SCOPUS’ science and technology index you will see ‘Is it @ Liverpool’ links to articles, following these buttons will direct you to articles in a variety of commercial library collections.

Monograph

This term is sometimes used for a book or similar substantial text, often written by a single author on a specific area of interest.

MWS

MWS means your University Login. The University network is also called MWS or the ‘Managed Windows Service’, you may see references to MWS when reading the IT Helpdesk Web pages and other areas of the University Web site. If you are directed to an MWS login screen, please log in using your University username and password.

University of Liverpool Network / University of Liverpool Login

This describes all online services provided by the University, including University email, the Library Web pages, online software applications and other online facilities. Early in your studies you will be asked to self-register for a University login (username and password), you should use your University login to access online services provided by the University.

Peer Review

Some E-Journals only publish articles which have undergone a rigorous academic review by experts in their specialist area. The Library Web site provides access to systems for checking if a journal is peer-reviewed.

Thesis / Dissertation

A dissertation is usually a substantial masters-level (MA, MSc, MBS) written project produced toward the end of the degree programme. A thesis (plural theses) is usually a higher-level degree project, in the UK and some other countries, a theses refers to a doctoral (PhD) project. However, the terms ‘thesis’ and ‘dissertation’ are used interchangeably around the world. The University provides access to Thesis and Dissertation collections, including a range of search tools to locate and download dissertations/theses. The University does not provide Masters level dissertations submitted to the University online, however some Masters dissertations are available via Laureate Education and your Student Support Manager.
UK Access Management Federation

In a few rare cases, you may be directed to a ‘UK Access Management Federation’ login page, this is simply another way to log into some digital resources licensed by the University Library, please log in using your University username and password.