E-Resource Types and Information Sources
Introducing E-Resource Types

During your studies you should become familiar with a range of different types of publications, documentation and data.

You will need to select the best kind of information you need to use for each element of your academic work.

You should become familiar with the broad range of systems available for locating digital resources and how these work.
Overview of E-Resource Types

• **E-Journals** - regularly occurring publications focused on a particular academic or professional field. Each ‘issue’ of a journal typically contains several individual ‘articles’.

• **E-Books** - substantial academic or professional texts often written by an individual author.

• **Data and Statistics** - including census information, companies and market information and social or economic data.

• **Theses and Dissertations** - written projects for a Masters or Doctoral degree.

• **Reference (mainly books)** - including dictionaries, historical works and general or subject-specific encyclopaediae.
Further E-Resource Types

• **Newspapers** - world-wide or national newspapers and specialist magazines such as the financial times.

• **Legal Materials** - including legal and official sources such as legislation, cases, EU law and other legal resources.

• **Standards and Patents** - including international standards such as ISO and IEEE specifications and patents for commercial protection of product designs.

• **Open Access and WWW sources** - including academic papers, blogs (Web discussion logs), commercial and organisational Web sites and other freely accessible content.
The Library subscribes or licenses access to full-text electronic collections, these provide access to content in digital format, often in PDF or other formats.

- Example full-text journal collections include JSTOR and Emerald.
- Example E-Book collections include E-Book Central and Springer.
- Collections can provide access to E-Books, E-Journals and other specialist materials (e.g. legal, markets).
- For key collections, see the E-Resources area of the Library for Online Programmes.
## Example full text Collections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EBSCO</td>
<td>All Subjects</td>
<td>EBSCO includes many specialist collections including health collections (CINAHL and AMED, PsychInfo), Business Source Premier.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emerald</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cross-subject coverage providing full text documents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>JSTOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>ScienceDirect</td>
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<tr>
<td>Springer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor &amp; Francis E-Journals</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ERIC</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Open access articles provided by the US government (also provided via EBSCO/ DISCOVER).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBMED/ MEDLINE</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>A US health government health portal for freely accessible articles and e-books, including the MEDLINE database.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HeinOnline</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Including general and specialist legal and official materials, such as legislation, cases, legal forms etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lexis Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>WestLaw</td>
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The Library provides access to multi-source databases and Library platforms, allowing you to search across many sources.

- **DISCOVER** is our main multi-source platform, allowing you to search all our subscribed E-Books and E-Journals.

- **SCOPUS** and **Web of Science** provides a global search of scholarly journals in print and online.

- **Specialist databases** allow you search global sources such as MEDLINE (health/life sciences) and CAB (veterinary science).

- You can also access **Google Scholar** via the Library to access subscribed sources.
Open Access sources

Open Access sources provide access to articles and scholarly papers made available by Universities, research bodies and publishers.

• **Google Scholar** – allows you to search most open access sources, including global universities and scholarly content.

• **Open Access platforms** - can be used to search many university repositories, these include Core and Cogprints.

• You can also use a **Google advanced search** to locate open access sources - or see search box on the [Open Access and WWW sources page](#).
Bibliographic Databases (indexes)

Bibliographic Databases (or Indexes) provide global searchability for scholarly sources, including hardcopy (print) and digital documents.

Bibliographic Databases provide information about scholarly resources, rather than full text access, these include SCOPUS and Web of Science.

Bibliographic Databases can be useful for researchers who need to explore a topic in detail, this could involve locating results via a civic or national Library.

Many Bibliographic Databases provide access to UoL subscribed resources via ‘Is it @ Liverpool’ links.
Journals (and E-Journals)

Journals are similar to magazines and newspapers, but contain scholarly, professional or specialist coverage.

- Journals focus on a specific **area of research** or industry, such as accountancy, management or legal ethics.
- Unlike books (stand-alone publications), journals publish at intervals during the year. Many journals publish quarterly (i.e. four times a year), others are published monthly or more frequently.
Journal Contributions

Journal articles can comprise short research works or summary of research projects, similar journal content can include:

• Book reviews
• Monographs – often providing narrative on a discipline or professional topic which may not be research-based.
• Conference proceeding – an account (usually concise) of a presentation at a scholarly or professional conference.
• Some periodicals provide a collection of conference proceedings, usually indicated in the title, e.g. *Proceedings of the nutrition society*.
• Letters, short commentary or other short contributions.
Journal characteristics

• Journals are also sometimes referred to as periodicals or serials.
• Each instance is called an issue (or edition), containing articles contributed by individuals within the academic or professional community.
• Journal issues can focus on a specific topic (including related articles in that issue).
• E-Journal simply refers to a journal which has been published digitally.
• Journal articles usually contain an abstract (summary) which you can use to evaluate the article and decide if this will be useful for your own research.
Some journal issues are simply numbered to indicate a succession of issues, e.g. number 1, number 2 etc. however, journal issues are often grouped into volumes.

• This provides a way of combining all the journal issues in a volume together.

• A typical journal issue will have a Volume and Issue number, e.g. Volume 14, Issue 10 (where the current issue is the 10th edition within Volume 14).
Citations

A journal article is characterised by details such as publication year, author name, the name of the journal where the article appears etc.

• These publication details are sometimes called a citation or bibliographic citation.

• It is necessary to refer to citation details when quoting (or citing) articles and similar scholarly sources in your own academic writing.

• These details are also useful for locating an article using library search tools or within search engines.
Tables of Contents

When browsing a journal issue you will see its Tables of Contents, listing all issues by year, volume etc.

In the journal article below we can see the Journal name, volume, issue, year of publication and starting / ending pages (the page numbers of this particular article published within a particular issue):
Some journals have a ‘Peer Review’ policy where article submissions are evaluated by eminent members of the relevant profession or academic area.

• Peer reviewed journals are often more highly respected and authoritative than other non-peer reviewed journals.

• It is usually possible to identify if a journal is peer reviewed by reading about the journal on its Web site. Some of our search tools such as DISCOVER allow you to limit your search only to Peer Reviewed journals.
E-Books

Like Journals, Books have key publication details, including Book title, Authors, Publishing company, Publication and edition information (e.g. 1999, 2nd edition), International Standard Book Number (e.g. ISBN: 9781567202182 9780313003714) and publisher’s location (e.g. London).

Knowledge Management Systems for Business
Thierauf, Robert J. (Author)
Publisher: Greenwood Publishing Group, Incorporated
First published in 1999
ISBN: 9781567202182 9780313003714
Westpoint, Connecticut, London

Book title
Authors (or Editors)
Publishing company
Publication and edition information
International Standard Book Number
Location of publication centre, publishers may publish from several locations.
Digital Rights Management (DRM)

- E-Books are often provided in PDF or as Web pages which can be saved from your Web browser (in HTML format).
- Some E-Book collections have restrictions on downloading, printing or copying text into Word or other editing software.
- Some E-Book systems may display their E-Books as Web pages, which must be navigated within the provider’s Web site but cannot be downloaded to your computer.
- Some restricted (Digital Rights Management/ DRM) E-Books may allow a download using software such as Adobe Digital Editions (see our tutorials) or Vital Source Bookshelf, you should be prompted to install this software when required.
The Library provides company reports, market research and a wide range of demographic and national data, see the data/Marks page [https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/data](https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/data)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MarketLine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Euromonitor</td>
<td>Includes sector statistics, market reports, company profiles and information sources for country, market, consumer and lifestyle profiling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAME (Financial Analysis Made Easy)</td>
<td>Information on 1.8 million UK &amp; Irish public &amp; private companies. For the top 500,000 of these companies, up to 10 years information is available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mintel</td>
<td>This service provides full-text online access to the Market Reports Collection (Essential &amp; Food &amp; Drink categories) and MBD Industrial Reports.</td>
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Theses and Dissertations

Theses are typically works submitted for doctoral studies (e.g. PhD), whilst dissertations typically refer to works submitted for Masters programmes. This terminology can be often interchangeable in some world regions. Dissertations submitted on-campus at UoL are not available online, please contact your tutor for UoL samples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ProQuest/ Index to Theses</td>
<td>Full text items from US and European Universities. Index to Theses also provides citations for UK and Irish theses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDL (National Digital Library)</td>
<td>A portal to locate full text theses worldwide but mostly based in US Universities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dart</td>
<td>A portal to locate full text theses across Europe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CogPrints</td>
<td>Doctoral full text theses for technical and health related subjects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel</td>
<td>Mostly French language full text theses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethos</td>
<td>Scanned theses free of charge, or request digitisation of non-digitised theses for a charge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAISter</td>
<td>Open access research repository for full text theses worldwide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Liverpool Repository</td>
<td>Full text archive of all submitted theses and research outputs of UoL.</td>
</tr>
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Newspapers

Access to daily and historical / archive newspapers and magazines are provided via the E-Resources > News area of the Library for Online Programmes, see:

https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/news
Standards

Standards are technical, management or official recommendations which used in industrial or professional processes. See the E-Resources > Standards and Patents page: [https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/standards](https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/standards)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standards Institution</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission)</td>
<td>Electrical equipment, systems and components.</td>
<td>Provides the IEC International Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSI (British Standards Institution)</td>
<td>Wide range of technical, management and other sectors within the UK.</td>
<td>Provides the BSI British Standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEEE</td>
<td>Engineering standards.</td>
<td>Provides the IEEE Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Standards Organisation (ISO)</td>
<td>Wide range of sectors and industries.</td>
<td>Provides the ISO Standards, the ISO site is not directly licensed by the Library, instead see BSI for licensed ISO documents. Some standards on the ISO Web site are also freely accessible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Patents are commercial reports detailing functionality of prototype or conceptual models, processes or inventions, ‘patented’ to ensure original concepts are commercially protected.

The Library provides access to several Patent databases, including Freepatents, Google Patents, the US Patent Office and the USPTO Patent Database.

See the E-Resources > Standards and Patents page: https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/standards
Legislation & Legal Materials

The Library provides access to legal sources, for legislation, Safety, government sources, legal cases and European Union materials. Law materials are often not shown in major search platforms such as DISCOVER, see individual legal collections. See the E-Resources > Law (or subject pages) https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/legal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases and Case Law</td>
<td>Detailed information on past court cases, with summaries, evaluative materials and commentary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Forms</td>
<td>Procedural documentation for regions, states and other economic zones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal journals / Periodicals</td>
<td>Whilst our regular E-Journal search tools will be useful for locating some articles relating to law, we also provide access to specialist legal periodicals published within the Legal sector (via Lexis Library, Westlaw and other collections). Many specialist legal periodicals will include commentary on significant case law, changes to legislation and other legal matters; these specialist periodicals are often unavailable via regular E-Journal search tools and Multi source tools but can be searched in the ‘Law’ section on the Library Web site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal News, Commentary and Bulletins</td>
<td>News on laws, amendments, ACOPs (implementation notes), legal industry developments etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislation</td>
<td>National and regional statute laws and implementation, including European Union, US Federal and international laws.</td>
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</table>
Research Repositories/Open Access

Research Repositories (or Research Archives) provide freely accessible research materials published by Universities or other scholarly organisations. Scholarly or other materials are often provided under an ‘open access’ basis (or license such as Creative Commons).

Open Access search platforms allow you to search many repositories simultaneously, e.g. Eprints, CORE or Google Scholar.

See the E-resources > Open Access page https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/www also see the Theses page for information on the UoL repository https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/theses
Other Scholarly sources

- **Commercial documents** – company reports published openly on the Internet.
- Scholarly papers via **University repositories**.
- Conference Proceedings - found in **journals**.
- **NGO (Non Government Organisation) documents** – reports of charitable organisations such as Amnesty International.
- **Official sources** - government papers, legislation, statistics - these include bodies such as the World Trade Organisation/ European Union.
- **Google Scholar** can be used to search open access content such as University repositories.
- Use the **Document Search** shown in the Library for Online Programmes for the above sources.
- Always examine Internet resources carefully to consider the authority of and quality of the information provided, see our tutorial/guide on Searching the Internet and Evaluating Web sites.
Support and Advice

• For training video, guides and tutorials on using the Library please see the Training page shown in the left menu of the Library for Online Programmes http://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/training

• For general enquiries using Library resources or login help please see our 24/7 support services at http://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/support

• If you have any further questions, to schedule a consultation or to report ongoing problems please contact the Librarian at the first opportunity http://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/support