Research Resources and Support
This guide provides advice on using Library resources for research, information on research-related issues (such as copyright, open access, assessing journal impact and data protection), software to assist your research and links to E-Books on a wide range of research skills.

You can also access our Research 'LibGuide' https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/researcherknowhow including information on the University research archive, research skills tutorials, citation analysis (journal metrics), copyright and open access, keeping up to date, managing your references and referencing skills.
Plagiarism is displaying someone else’s ideas as your own. If you don’t know when to cite and reference the sources you have used, you may be guilty of plagiarism – a serious form of academic misconduct.

See our guide on Plagiarism. Also see the University Policy on Plagiarism and Dishonest Use of Data.

The Library’s Referencing page provides advice on referencing and how to avoid plagiarism and academic misconduct [https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/referencing](https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/referencing)

Also see our tutorial on referencing and avoiding plagiarism.
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.
During your studies you will need to review the literature available for your subject area, this is sometimes called the Literature Review and is particularly important when planning and developing your final Thesis or Dissertation.

You should consider a literature review...

- ...when reviewing background literature for your general subject area - i.e. developing a knowledge of the subject by familiarising yourself with available sources and academic works.
- ...when reviewing available literature and sources for particular assignments, group work, discussions etc.
- ...when reviewing available literature and sources for your final written project, e.g. Dissertation or Thesis.
- See our guide and tutorial on Carrying out your Literature Review or Systematic Review.
Systematic Review

Students of health (or in other disciplines) may need to use a more formal literature review method e.g. based around case studies, often called Systematic Review. Systematic Review usually consists of developing a search strategy based on a wide number of articles, reports or case studies. If you are using a Systematic Review approach for your final written project, this should be defined in your research proposal or methodology.

Systematic Review models:

• Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions
• Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre
• PRISMA systematic review model
• Centre for Reviews and Dissemination

Please contact your Librarian or tutors if you have any questions on the systematic review. For further advice, see our support page on Systematic Review.
**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.
Searching for Theses and Dissertations

When searching for theses or dissertations you should consult a broad range of full theses/dissertation collections, theses and dissertation sources are not typically shown in DISCOVER.

Online students can see theses and dissertation sources after logging into the Library for Online Programmes (http://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online), then see the E-Resources > Theses & Dissertations page. You can visit individual collections in the list shown or use the on-screen search facility (also see our guide on theses and dissertations).
You can access the University repository site to search for UoL theses and research materials ([http://livrepository.liverpool.ac.uk/](http://livrepository.liverpool.ac.uk/)).

For advanced options see the Advanced Search page to search by degree type, e.g. Doctor of Business Administration, see the 'Qualification Level' area a little way down the advanced page and select the required degree programme.

Also see - all Doctor of Business Administration theses and all Doctor of Education Theses

See support options shown on the repository site.

For further guidance or advice for doctoral submission of your thesis to the repository see the Theses support page in the Library for Online Programmes ([https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/theses](https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/theses)).
The Library offers a programme of training events for researchers running throughout the academic year. The events cover a range of topics useful for both PhD students and more established researchers, see:

https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/researcherknowhow
The Library supports a wide range of applications and software to assist your research and information skills, such as EndNote to manage your citations, Open Source applications and Citrix (virtual desktop to access campus applications):
https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/software

Statistical applications such as SPSS and qualitative research applications such as Nvivo are available via the Computing Services Department
https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/csd/software/
Citation management applications can assist in keeping track of your references and for performing tasks such as automatic export of citations from databases or generating a bibliography for use in your academic work.

You can also use tools such as browser plugins to export citations into your reference list.

EndNote Online is a Web based citation management platform supported by the Library.

EndNote Desktop (for Windows or Macintosh systems), this application provides more detailed options for managing citations.

See our citation management platforms support page for further advice.
Linking Tools

You can use a range of tools to create hyperlinks to E-Resources, whilst some resource links can simply be copied and pasted from the URL (address bar) of your Web browser, many databases and search platforms require a stable link (or this may not function later).

The Library for Online Programmes provides a linking tools page (https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/linkbuilder) including:

- Tools and advice for linking to articles and E-Books
- Tools for staff developing online modules
- Options provided by external services such as Crossref.
Copyright

Copyright is the regulation and control of intellectual and commercial ownership of literary, musical, software or other works.

Copyright allows for the legal and commercial preservation of copying and distribution rights for works, as such copyright is an important legal instrument for publishers and authors. Copyright is important for controlling the dissemination of academic texts in the education sector, defining how texts can be reproduced, scanned and disseminated.

The UK Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) provides a framework for licencing the reproduction and dissemination of academic texts within strict boundaries and processes for partner organisations/ users.

Whilst copyright is defined under national legislation for most countries, copyright is also governed by wider regional/ international agreements, also see:

- [Introduction to Copyright](#) - provided by the UK Intellectual Property Office.
- [Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA)](#) - the UK Government copyright licensing agency.
- [International Copyright Legislation/ Agreements](#)
Copyright and Creative Commons

Creative Commons licences provide a range of limitations that can be placed on the use of a published work - you can discover the variety of limitations at the Creative Commons choose a licence web page.
Intellectual Property

- Intellectual Property or IP refers to the rights held by individuals to their original works, IP is defined in national and international agreements and is reflected in Copyright legislation.

- Intellectual Property rights also provide the foundation for a wide range of commercial legislation and agreements in areas such as Trademarks and Patents.

- Intellectual Property is an important factor for academic writers when developing collaborative works e.g. with partner organisations or other authors or when compiling a contract with publishers to define commercial, distribution or ownership rights.
  - Introduction to Intellectual Property - provided by the World Intellectual Property Organization.
  - Directory of Intellectual Property government agencies
Patents

• Patents are formally defined outlines, treaties or schematics defining the rights holders of industrial or other creative processes, designs, systems or other creative works. Patents are primarily important for commercial control and retention of product rights.

• See Introduction to Patents - provided by the UK Intellectual Property Office.
Data Protection

Data Protection defines responsibilities on organisations and individuals to safeguard and control access and dissemination of personal data, such as private/sensitive personal information.

You should be particularly aware of data protection responsibilities for the collection and management of data from human subjects when carrying out research projects.

Data protection is defined by legislation in many countries and regions, you should ensure you are familiar with data protection regulations or legislation for your region, also see:

- [Data Protection explained](#) - provided by the JISC UK Higher Education agency.
- [European Union Convention for the Protection of Individuals](#) - Council of Europe Data Protection Agreement.
It is important to obtain appropriate ethical approval to carry out research projects, this can involve issues related to interview of persons or use of sensitive information. You should consult your research supervisor to ensure you have met all ethical approval requirements and procedures to carry out your project, see -

- University of Liverpool research pages
- UK National Research Ethics Service - an NHS clinical-focused research ethics framework.
- Economic and Social Research Council Framework for Research Ethics
Keeping up to Date

During your studies you should maintain an awareness of current information sources, publications, research and news related to your academic or professional subject. Channels for keeping up to date with your subject area include:

• Academic email lists (such as JISCmail).
• Table of Contents software to quickly view new article publications (see the Applications area of the Library for online programmes).
• Viewing Library News to view new Library subscriptions/ collection/ E-Journals etc.
• Also see online resource for funding and research opportunities e.g. Research Professional.
Disseminating your Research

If you are working at Doctoral level or seek to become active in writing within your subject area you should consider discussing or sharing your own research, theories or writing. You should discuss any publication of coursework created for your programme of studies with your tutors before disseminating this online, this is because publishing your coursework could incur occurrences of plagiarism and collusion allowing others to plagiarise. Research works can be disseminated via locations such as:

• **Academia** - general research portal.
• **Research Gate** - (also see [Introduction to Research Gate](#) for Scientists).
• **Social Science Space** - Social Sciences research.
• **Method Space** - general research portal.
• **Communication Space** - Media & Communications research.
• Blogging tools to record your views or commentary (such as [Blogger](#), [Twitter](#) or [WordPress](#)).
• Present your work at conferences and seminars - for upcoming events consult scholarly publications, email discussion lists (such as [JISCmail](#)) or Web portals for your subject area.
Publishing your own research

- If you wish to publish your own research works online you can upload your work via a repository.
- Repositories are online collections operated on a non-profit basis according to principles of Open Access for free public retrieval of content. Most Universities and related research organisations operate their own research repository or archive, allowing organisation members to upload research materials.
- When you upload a research paper to a repository you should ensure this meets the required standards and formatting described in the repository. Whilst most institutional repositories restrict uploading to internal members, a few organisations provide public access to upload content, one of these is the Munich Personal Archive (Economics repository).
- Open Access repositories can also be searched via major searching platforms such as OAISTER (see the E-Resources / WWW area of the Library for Online Programmes).
- The Research Archive of the University of Liverpool allows researchers and academic practitioners of the University to upload research papers, this does not include Masters or taught doctoral dissertations/theses.
- If you are sharing your own research works or associated media, you should consider sharing materials via a copyright license. The Creative Commons framework a range of licenses see http://creativecommons.org - also see the following presentation on Creative Commons licenses.
The Library provides a wide range of platforms for viewing the research impact of academic research. Evaluating the impact of an individual author, subject area, specialism or industry can assist you in selecting the most relevant and important source material for your own academic writing and research. Key journal metrics tools include -

- **Web of Science** - provides Journal Citation Reports (generate metrics for journal or subject area), and Essential Science Indicators (generate discipline-wide metrics)
- **SCOPUS** - provides SciVal, allowing for generation of research impact data for publications and research bodies/organisations.
- **SCImago** - provides a range of journal and national research impact indicators.

For guides and presentations on journal metrics, see the Library for Online Programmes, then Apps and Library Tools, then Journal Metrics [https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/metrics](https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/metrics)
Data Sets and Data Mining

Data sets provide research for population, medical, economic or other data types.

The process of 'data mining' refers to the process of discovering and interpreting data sets to obtain patterns, trends or observations from data to develop new research theory.

Data sets are derived from prior scientific, economic, social or other research projects or major government or statistical agencies.

Data sets may be unique or represent longitudinal studies over many years or decades.

Sources of data include:

- **Research Pipeline** (directory of data sources).
- **StatLib** (portal to data sources provided by Carnegie Mellon University).
- **DATA.GOV** (US Government data sources on a wide range of social, economic, industrial and international areas).
- **DATA.GOV.UK** (UK Government data).
- **Global Change Mastery Directory** (portal to geographical and biosciences data sources).
- **Google Public Data Explorer** (portal to data available freely on the WWW).

Also see the **Data and Statistics** area of the **Library for Online Programmes**.
## Writing your Assignments/ Dissertation

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<td>Dissertation research and writing for construction students</td>
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## E-Books for Research Methods

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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](http://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/online/training)

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