Searching for E-Journal Articles and Scholarly Papers

The Library provides a range of search options to access E-Journal articles and other scholarly or professional papers. The Library provides access to over 30,000 E-Journal titles and many millions of individual articles and papers.

E-Journal search options include:

- Go direct to an article – either by searching for the article or other scholarly paper by title, or inputting detailed article citation details using our ‘Go to an article / citation finder’ tool.

- Multi-Source options - to search many sources simultaneously.

- Individual collections / platforms - search an individual subscribed collection, either directly from search boxes via Library pages, or via links to the homepage of individual collections.

- Access an E-Journal title – to browse journal issues or search within that particular journal.

- WWW options – in addition to commercial collections licensed by the Library, you should also consider WWW search strategies, including Web document search tools provided via Library Web pages.

This guideline assumes you have a general familiarity with the Library Web site, are familiar with E-Journals (and Peer Reviewed Journals), are familiar with general principles for searching such as use of keywords and are familiar with tools for locating specific E-Resources. If you are unsure about any of these issues, please also see our introductory guides to using the Library.

Online students are recommended to read the Brief Guide to the Library for Online Programmes.

- Tips for Searching
- Overview of Information Types and Information Sources
- How to Locate E-Resources
• Finding Resources Unavailable via our Systems
• Carrying your Literature Review or Systematic Review

Considerations when searching for E-Journal articles / papers

Please note the following when searching for online articles and related content:

• The University Library does not subscribe to all E-Journals published online.

• Some E-Journals, conference proceedings and reports (especially older documents pre-dating the World Wide Web) were never published in digital format, despite these being listed in ‘Bibliographical Databases’ and cited in publications.

• If you are unsure about the difference between E-Journals and Articles, or need help understanding citations (an Article reference containing author details, Year, Article title, Journal title, Volume, Issue, Start page), please read our guide Overview of Information Types and Information Sources.

• You should be familiar with our ‘Is it @ Liverpool’ linking system, since some E-Journal results will not display a direct PDF/ Full text link, but may instead show a ‘Is it @ Liverpool’ icon.

• The Library does not publish E-Journals or other E-Resources via a single ‘Online Library’, instead we license or pay for access to many hundreds of individual E-Resource collections online, each of these Web providers appear slightly different. However, you can search across many sources simultaneously using our multi source options, such as Discover.

• Some Library E-Resources are not available via regular multi source platforms, such as Discover, Web of Knowledge, SCOPUS or Google Scholar. Resources which must be searched separately include Legal materials (cases, legal proceedings), statistical data, company/ market reports, some Theses and Dissertations sources and Reference sources such as encyclopaediae, patents and International Standards.

• Most E-Journal platforms/ collections and multi source platforms provide the ability to self-register for separate personal profiles, these profiles allows you to save your preferences (such as interface language or interface customisation) and to save or bookmark results for later viewing. It is not necessary to create a profile in any of these systems to access Full text. These profiles are separate from your University login used to access the Library Web pages and collections/ platforms. If you do choose to create a
profile on any of these platforms you will still need to log into the Library using your University login before you begin your search or visit platforms.

- If you cannot access a particular E-Resource, make sure your required item is subscribed by using the tools on this Library Web site, otherwise see our guideline Finding E-Resources Unavailable via our Systems.

- E-Journal articles are usually available in PDF format, if you are unfamiliar with document formats or how to open them, please see our guide Using the Web and Accessing Documents.

**Go Direct to an Article**

You can use the ‘Go to an article / citation finder’ tool to visit a specific article if you have the full article citation details (see the electronic Library page, or see the E-Resources area of the Library for Online Programmes):

You should see a popup window indicating if access is available with a GO button leading to the article in its source location:

**Full-text access**
- View full-text at Wiley Online Library
- View full-text at publisher’s site via DOI

Alternatively, you can search for the article by title, author or other details using a multi source platform such as Discover, SCOPUS or Web of Science (see below).

For a full explanation of locating E-Resources please see our guide How to Locate E-Resources.

**Multi Source/ Major E-Journal Platforms**

The Library provides a range of multi-source or major E-Journal platforms to search across our E-Journal subscriptions, including the following recommended platforms:
Discover – our recommended multi-source platform for E-Journals, E-Books, conference proceedings and many other E-Resources. You can search Discover directly from the University Library homepage (note – when using Discover from the University Library Web site, you will be shown electronic and printed/hardcopy resources held in the Library).

Online students are recommended to search Discover using search options shown in the Library for Online Programmes (this will ensure you will view only online/digital results as far as possible. In this version of the Discover search box you will see a options to limit your search to a specific title, to e-books, to e-journal articles, peer reviewed sources only etc.).

You can also visit the Discover Advanced page for detailed search options. Also our guide on using Discover for E-Resources.

1. Web of Science – this platform is a Bibliographic Database primarily providing abstracts (summaries) about resources, but will often provide access to Full Text via our ‘Is it @ Liverpool’ linking system. You can access Web of Knowledge from the University Library Web site (see the electronic Library).

Additionally, Web of Science is available from the Library for Online Programmes (see the Quick Search/Key Databases area or E-Resources page):
2. SCOPUS – another Bibliographic Database, similar to Web of Science and particularly useful for technical, scientific and medical related disciplines. You can access SCOPUS from the [University Library Web site](see the electronic Library).

Additionally, SCOPUS is available from the [Library for Online Programmes](see the Quick Search/ Key Databases area or E-Resources page):

You can also search ‘SciVerse Hub’ from within SCOPUS for selected WWW content, to access SciVerse Hub click the SciVerse icon within SCOPUS:
• Google Scholar – includes freely accessible scholarly papers from across the WWW and many University Library subscribed collections/platforms. Google Scholar can provide a useful option to search the WWW for more relevant scholarly content (vs. searching the general WWW via the Google search engine).

If you visit or search Google Scholar from Library Web pages then you will be logged in when you encounter resources in commercial collections/platforms. You should avoid accessing Google Scholar from its normal public URL, since you won’t be able to open secure content subscribed by the Library.

Scholar also provides an alternative way to search for E-Journal articles by title or author.

You can access Google Scholar from some Library Web pages, additionally the Library for Online Programmes provides a Google Scholar search box/link from the Library for Online Programmes homepage:

When using Scholar you can often access items from the normal links shown in results, however, sometimes you may need to use the alternative ‘Is it @ Liverpool’ or other suggested sources shown in the right menu:

• Google document search options – Whilst you can use the basic Google Search Engine to obtain scholarly content, this kind of search may result in irrelevant results due to the volume of Web pages contained in Google. You
should see our guide on **Searching the Internet and Evaluating Web Sites** to ensure you use authoritative resources via the WWW.

If you would like a more focused WWW search, you can use advanced options in Google to limit your search to a particular ‘domain’ (Web site URL), limit to NGO (non-government sources), worldwide University documents, reports and articles, corporate reports, or a search all popular document formats (PDF, DOC etc.). For help using Google advanced search options see our guide on **Searching the Internet and Evaluating Web Sites**.

Note – if you simply visit google.com you will not be logged into your University/ MWS login to access commercial E-Resources, however, logging into the Library Web pages will ensure your login is passed to any commercial resources encountered.

Additionally, you can quickly perform a **Google document search** via the **Library for Online Programmes** (see the Quick Search/ Key Databases search box or WWW page), options include ALL documents, Worldwide University documents only, Official/ NGO documents only, Corporate documents only:

When you use a Google document search, all your results should be shown in a popular document format such as PDF, DOC etc.:
• Research Archives/Gateways – these include major research ‘hubs’ such as OAIster, OPENDOAR and others, these platforms include research papers from Universities and research archives around the world. You can find links to relevant research archives in our LibGuides subject pages.

Additionally, you can search or browse major research gateways from the Library for Online Programmes (see the WWW/Open Access page):

Open Research Sources

• arXiv.org
• Astronomy Data System (ADS) - formerly Citebase
• Ceptrins
• Eprint Network
• OAISTE
• Open DOAR

Individual Collections / Platforms

In addition to multi source options shown above, you can also search individual collections directly from search boxes in Library Web pages or by visiting the homepage of collections to see advanced search options.

There can be several reasons for searching individual collections, these can include:

• As part of a planned literature review or systematic review, i.e. having identified key collections dedicated to a particular discipline or topic.

• On the recommendation of your tutors, i.e. if some particularly seminal or useful materials are available within a particular collection.

• To access advanced search options to search by region, publication date, author, language etc. You will usually find multi source platforms contain fewer detailed search options.

• To access content more directly, i.e. individual Full Text collections will always provide results via a direct PDF download or other format, whilst multi source platforms such as SCOPUS or Discover may require use of a 'Is it @ Liverpool' link to provide less direct access to Full text.

• To access personalisation features such as a personal profile, bookmarking or journal impact or other statistical reports.
• Some individual collections cannot be searched via a multi source platform, this includes most Law and market/company reports collections, these must be searched separately via the E-Resources page. You can also access some Law sources such as WestLaw from the left menu Quick Search.

To access individual E-Journal collections, see the E-Resources page (see below).

**Searching Collections / Platforms**

Whilst it is possible to search across most of our subscribed databases from major platforms such as Discover, SCOPUS or Web of Science, You can also search individual E-Journal databases/collections by visiting their individual homepage.

Individual platforms are accessible by subject area in our LibGuides subject pages.

Additionally, individual E-Journal platforms for some subject areas can be accessed or searched from the Library for Online Programmes (see the E-Journals page).

Individual multi-disciplinary collections (covering multiple subject areas) include:

- ProQuest
- ScienceDirect
- Emerald
- Highwire
- Springer
- JSTOR
- Taylor & Francis
- Cambridge journals
- Wiley
- Oxford journals
- SAGE
- MetaPress

All collections/platforms have a unique appearance, with their own navigation options, personalization features etc. You will often see results similar to the screenshot above, including document titles, author details, a brief overview or abstract and access to the document Full Text via a PDF icon:
We also subscribe or provide access to specialist collections, e.g. PubMed, TRIP or Cochrane for evidence based medicine sources, IEEE for technical resources and engineering standards, WestLaw for Law resources and ERIC for education sources.

Some individual scholarly databases do not display in Discover or other multi-source platforms (e.g. SCOPUS, Web of Science, Google Scholar), these include:

- All markets, companies and statistics databases (Mintel, Hoovers, GMID etc.).
- Most evidence based/ clinical trials type databases (mentioned above).
- All legal databases and sources (e.g. WestLaw UK/International, Lexis).
- All patents, ISO/standards sources.
- Theses and dissertation sources (partially display in major platforms, however it is highly recommended to view these within their individual platforms).
- Most news sources (e.g. Library press display).
- All WWW or scholarly Open Access sources unpublished in formal journals or commercial Library databases.

For help accessing the above sources, please see the guide Overview of Information Types and Sources.

You can also usually see options to export citation/ publication details from individual databases/ collections, this data can be imported into your Referencing management software, such as Refworks (also see our introduction to referencing):
You can also access platforms/ collections by visiting the ‘Databases A-Z’ page.

Access an E-Journal title

We provide a range of tools to access a specific E-Journal or browse / search its contents:

- Use Discover to access an E-Journal title – you can input an E-Journal title into the large Discover search box, selecting the ‘Search by Title’ option. If you can see the relevant title in the Discover results, click the title shown to see further details about the journal, or click ‘View this journal online’ to go direct to the journal issues to browse or search the journal. The journal may be viewable within the Discover system or you could be directed to a 3rd party Web provider.

- Use the A-Z of E-Journal titles – (shown in the University Library Web site (see the electronic Library area). Additionally, you can find the A-Z of E-Journal titles in the Library for Online Programmes (see the E-Journals page).

- Search for an E-Journal title – you can input your required journal name into Discover to display journal details, years of coverage, browse issues or search contents. Additionally, the Library for Online Programmes provides a tool to search for an E-Journal by title (see the E-Journals page):

Cite

Copy and paste a formatted citation or use one of the links to import into a bibliography manager:


• Search within an E-Journal title – you can limit your search in Discover to a journal source (shown as ‘SO’) using the advanced search options, e.g.

![Search within an E-Journal title](image)

Additionally, the Library for Online Programmes provides a tool to search within an E-Journal by title (see the E-Journals page):

![Search within an E-Journal title](image)

You can see a more detailed overview for accessing, browsing or searching specific E-Journals in our guide How to Locate E-Resources.

**Further Databases / Bibliographic Databases**

Online and remote students wishing to access online/ e-resources as far as possible are recommended to use the Library for Online Programmes as your primary search option, this Library Web site is configured to display only full text e-resources as far as possible.

Some platforms such as Discover are useful for limiting your search to full text e-resources, if you are using Discover from the University of Liverpool Library Web site/ electronic Library, and wish to limit your Discover search to full text resources you can use the ‘Full text only’ limiter shown in the left menu following your search.

Citation/ Bibliographic databases provide a wider search of library related content, primarily providing information about items rather than full text content. Bibliographic databases include Web of Science, SCOPUS and MEDLINE (medicine and health). Bibliographic databases may display print results which are older or have not been digitised or content which is not subscribed in digital format by the University of Liverpool, you may need to undertake further research to locate/ obtain full text or print items described in search results.

If you wish to search Citation / Bibliographic Databases and some specialist collections by visiting other Library pages maintained at the on-campus Library,
Bibliographic databases are listed via the University Library Web Site and subject Libguides (subject specialist pages).

Also see our guide Finding E-Resources unavailable via our systems and Using Other Library Services.

General (Keyword / Topical) Search Strategy for E-Journal Articles

One of the most common tasks you will undertake during your studies is to search for E-Journal articles and other scholarly papers. You are required to support your own assignments, online discussions and final written project by reading and referring to scholarly research and commentary.

There is no ‘best’ approach when searching scholarly papers and your exact search technique will depend on your topic, the context of your work and depth of research required.

Also see our guide Tips for Searching and Carrying out your literature or systematic review.

When searching for E-Journal articles by keyword we suggest the following broad strategy, you do not need to follow this exact order when searching, you can also combine any of the following options, however, we recommend using Discover as a starting point to begin your search. Routes to access the sources/ databases below are described in the proceeding pages:

1. **Discover**: we suggest starting any basic keyword/ topical search using our recommended multi-source Discover platform.

2. **Other multi source options**: you can also search alternative multi source options such as Web of Knowledge, SCOPUS or Google Scholar.

3. **Individual collections**: in addition to multi source platforms, you can search individual collections from Library pages. Searching a specialist collection may allow you to focus your search on a particular discipline, such as Evidence Based Medicine. Individual collections usually provide further advanced search options than those found in multi source platforms. You may also be asked to consult a specific collection by your tutor.

4. **WWW options**: you can also access freely accessible sources via the WWW, such as Research Repositories or a WWW document search.

5. **Bibliographic Databases**: you can also perform a world-wide search of E-Journal articles and scholarly materials using Bibliographic Databases, which primarily provide an abstract (summary) rather than full text. However, you may be able to check if the results are available using a ‘Is it @ Liverpool’ icon, or you may need to use search tools available via Library pages.

6. **Peer review**: you may choose to limit your literature search to Peer Reviewed content only, this may be a requirement of your module or programme. You
can limit your searches to Peer Reviewed content using the ‘Peer Review Only’ option available in Discover, or could use the alternative multi source platform SCOPUS which contains only peer reviewed sources.

7. **Other search strategies**: you may choose to conduct your search strategy using a formal Systematic Review method, or may have planned your Literature Review and search strategy within your proposal, assignment or final project.

**Further Help**

If you have any questions please contact your Librarian (see [list of Liaison Librarians](#) and [Librarian for Online Programmes](#)).