Beyond

How to become an expert at finding, evaluating, and organising essential readings for your course

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Session Overview

• Tracking references down: where to look for what.

• Following your own interest to discover new readings relating to writers/ideas/subjects that interest you.

• Organising bibliographies using Zotero.
Discovering new readings and exploring ideas

- Works by known authors—their bibliographies
  Supervisor/peer recommendations

- E-Journal Archives/E-book Collections

- Citation databases (i.e. scholarly search engines)

- Sites/resources relevant to your subject
Searching contents of journals/books/theses etc., using citation indexes

Google Scholar

WEB OF KNOWLEDGE™

SciVerse Scopus
Searching subject specific online resources

eresources@cambridge and your department/faculty webpages
Citation Searching: What is it?

- An alternative to subject searching:
  - Begin with an article reference you already know.
  - Then search forward in the published literature to locate new articles which cite your known reference in their bibliographies.

- So, a **citation index** enables you to look up a work that you know to find new material that has cited it.
Peer Review: what is it?

- System used by academics to validate published research outputs.

- Peer reviewed journals overseen by an editorial board of experts in a given area.

- Book publishers of academic books generally subject their output to peer review (e.g. university press titles).

- Wikipedia, along with a vast range of other resources to be found on the internet are not peer reviewed and are therefore less reliable sources of information.
Google Scholar

• Free! Quick and easy to use (especially if you’re after something specific).
• Aims to help you find relevant material across the world of scholarly peer reviewed research (but extent of coverage unclear).
• Finds articles, theses, books, abstracts etc. (broader range of formats than other subscribed resources, including grey literature).
• Aims to locate full text in Cambridge.

• BUT

• Not comprehensive. *Use other search tools as well!*
• Not good for manipulating and organising data.
Google Scholar: how does it work?

• Search engine that crawls academic data (criteria unclear).
• Results ranked using complex algorhythm (we don’t know what it is) in which numbers of citations play a part.
• Search by name (no authority control – can’t distinguish one John Smith from another)
• Use keywords to search full text and other article metadata but no subject indexing. (not useful to look up ‘The Reformation’).
Google Scholar: try it

- Look up a concept or subject: e.g. Climate Change.
- Try features for ordering, saving, and manipulating results. (unsophisticated in relation to other resources).
- Try useful citations alert.
- Go to ‘Settings’ > ‘Library links’ to set up library access links.
- Links to Web of Science.
Web of Science (wok.mimas.ac.uk): what is it?

Citation Index journal articles, book reviews, editorials, letters, and biographical material from over 12,000 top tier international and regional journals in every area of the natural sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities.
Very widely used

Includes:
Science Citation Index (1900-)
Social Sciences Citation Index (1956-)
Arts & Humanities Citation Index (1975-)
Web of Science: how does it work

- Database of catalogue records (including citations) created by people
- Search by name
- Search by subject keywords (chosen by humans)
- Searches abstracts but not full text
- Exports them to EndnoteWeb
- You can manipulate results by author, date, times cited

- Most importantly, allows citation searches and Citation Reports
Web of Science

Try the Basic Search:

- Easy-to-configure search options – start off basic, just with e.g. “Climate change” and “polar ice caps” then refine.
  NB: remember to use quotes for phrases
- Order results by number of citations.
- Find authors that have been most active in your areas of interest
- Find an author you know; in which year did he/she receive most citations
- Find a list of journals that have articles relating to your subject area
Scopus: what is it

- Created by Elsevier (the largest science publisher). Largest abstract and citation database for the sciences and social sciences.
- Peer-reviewed journals (over 22,000 titles), conference proceedings, trade publications etc., worldwide
- Also indexes, 386 million scientific web pages, including patents from 5 patent offices, and 40,000 books
- Seamless links to full-text articles and other library resources
- Although it indexes Humanities, it is best for sciences.
Scopus: what does it do

• Like WoS, Scopus is a:
  • Database of catalogue records (including citations) created by people
  • Search by name (authority controlled)
  • Search by subject keywords (chosen by humans)
  • Searches abstracts but not full text
  • Exports results (to Mendeley referencing system)
  • Ranks journals re: productivity and total citations to indicate impact, prestige and influence.

• Range of unique and innovative features for formatting results.
Scopus: what does it do

• Try the Document Search:
  • Start off basic, just with a subject like “Climate Change” and “polar ice caps” then refine.
    • Analyse results: discover the leading authors and institutions in your area of interest.

• Try an author search
  • Find a publications by an author you know: see their h-index graph; in which year did he/she receive most citations
  • Impact: Find the most influential (i.e. most cited) journals in your subject area
Journal Archives

• Allows searching of peer reviewed secondary literature in core journals by a single journals provider.

• Range of titles less extensive than for citation databases, and Search options less sophisticated (no subject or citation searching)

• Nevertheless, invaluable as a means to search core literature in a particular subject area.
Journal Archives

• **Jstor (non-current journals)**
  1,600 digitised back-runs of core scholarly journals, some dating back to 1600s. Strongest in arts, humanities & social sciences

• **Project Muse**
  355 titles from over 70 publishers in arts, humanities and social sciences.

• **Elsevier ScienceDirect**
  Over 1/4 of all scientific, medical and technical info online. Includes 2500 journals and 11,000 books.

• **PubMed Central** free full-text archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature

• These cover broad subject areas: check out subject specific databases in your subject.
Journal Archives

**Jstor**

- What is it? Not-for-profit organization with a dual mission to create and maintain a trusted archive of important scholarly journals, and to provide access to these journals as widely as possible.
- Don’t use it to find latest research. Most titles do not include issues more recent than three years (so called ‘moving wall’ policy)

- Try the Use the ‘advanced search’
- Search by author, subject key word, or phrase
- Order results
- See bottom of screen to narrow by discipline and/or journal
Searching ebooks sites

1. Ebooks@Cambridge Undergrad Collection: over 1.5 million books, including the most used books in Cambridge Colleges. Accessible from LibrarySearch. Collections include:

Use e-books for full text searching

- **Cambridge Companions Online** Incl. Philosophy, Literature, Classics, etc.
- **Cambridge Histories Online** E-access to the renowned Cambridge Histories series
- **Oxford Reference Online** OUP reference works incl. Philosophy, History, Sciences etc.
- **Oxford Scholarship Online** Biology, Classics, Economics, History, Linguistics, Literature, Music, Philosophy, Physics, Politics Psychology, etc.
- **Early English Books Online (EEBO)** All Books printed in the British Isles 1473–1700.
- **Eighteenth Century Collections Online** English-language eds pub. 1701-1800.
- **Oxford Bibliographies** Criminology, History, Literature, Medieval Studies, Politics and International Relations
Searching ebooks sites.

Free Sites

• Google Books.

• Other sites freely available on web: see the [free ebooks@cambridge site](free ebooks@cambridge site)
LibrarySearch+

- Enables Google-style searching of over 300 key resources simultaneously, including Web of Knowledge, SCOPUS, JSTOR, Project Muse, Science Direct etc...
- Scholarship filter limits to "scholarly" publications
- Good for identifying which resources best cover your subject area
zotero.org
Getting Started

- Free bibliographic interface which works with Firefox through website or bookmarklet extension
- Firefox browser-based (and also a standalone version for use with other browsers) and mobile apps
- MS Word plug-in (also Google Docs, LibreOffice, and OpenOffice)
- Import/export, Citation Style Repository, Collections, Notes, Tags, Groups, Syncing off-line
How to do things in your Zotero library

- Download Zotero
- (note: use as pane or tab)
- Save a citation
  - Button
  - LibrarySearch
  - GoogleBooks
  - ISBN/ISSN/DOI
  - Manual
  - Multiple items

- Edit a citation
- Make a note, tag, collection, sub-collection
- Save a citation with a pdf
- Save a file or image directly onto Zotero
- Link to a file
How to do things in MS Word

- Add a citation
- Insert page numbers
- Make a prefix/suffix
- Refresh bibliography
- ‘Remove field codes’
- Change citation style
- Create a bibliography
Advice:

- When you encounter new resources, put them in Zotero in a systematic way.

- Make sure you dedicate time to organizing your Zotero library.