EXERCISE

Use the search string you created in the ‘Building a search’ exercise to find theses using one of the platforms below – SOLO, ProQuest or EthOS.

Oxford theses

Tip: in SOLO go to Advanced Search and select ‘Theses (Oxford) under Resource Type.

Use SOLO (http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/) to search for:

1. Theses in your research area
   - think about your combination of search terms, e.g. find Theses containing the words:
     (youth OR young OR juvenile) AND crim*

2. Theses from your department or faculty
   - e.g. Social Policy and Intervention
   - has your department/faculty changed its name over time?

3. Theses on your degree course
   - e.g. M.Phil. Economics
   - NB. Be careful with the spelling/punctuation of the degree qualification: entering “MPhil” will produce different results from entering “M.Phil.”.

4. Theses supervised by your supervisor
   - e.g. Roger Goodman

British, Irish and North American Theses

ProQuest

Use ProQuest’s Dissertations and Theses databases to search for theses in your research area from the UK, Ireland and North America. Be aware that ProQuest may not have the full-text of theses you would like to read. In this case, try EthOS at the end of this handout.


2. In the subject drop down menu select Theses and Dissertations.

3. Select ProQuest and Dissertations and Theses Global (full text plus UK and Ireland abstracts). This database includes these sub-databases which can be searched together:
   - ProQuest Dissertations and Theses UK and Ireland
     [Abstracts and Indexes only – All Subjects, UK and Ireland]
   - ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global
     [Full Text – All Subjects, North America ]

4. The default search option is a basic search. To perform a more effective search with structured search terms, click on Advanced search above the search box.

5. Type your search terms into the boxes provided, making sure you use a separate line for each search concept, using OR to combine synonyms on each line and truncation marks (*) to find variant endings.
Use double quotation marks (" ") to search for a phrase. For example, for the research question: “In what ways does participation in the ERASMUS exchange programme impact on students’ intercultural learning?”, you might type the keywords:

ERASMUS OR “study* abroad” OR “student* exchange*”
intercultur* OR multicultur*
learn* OR sensitiv* OR aware*

6. The right-hand drop down menu defaults to search Anywhere. If searching the Full-Text database, this also searches the full-text where available. To make your search more focused:
   - Try changing this to Anywhere except full text – NOFT for each line.
   - Try changing this to Abstract – AB for each line.
   - Try changing this to Document title – TI for each line.

7. You have a range of options to limit your search, for example by date, language or type of degree. Click on ‘Modify search’ to return to the results screen.
   - To filter by a specific thesis supervisor, use the Advisor search box, or click on Look up advisor for a drop-down list. Please note - the advisor search only works for North American theses. It does not work for UK and Irish theses.
   - To restrict results to full-text only, tick the box to Limit to: Full text.

EthOS

ETHOS (http://ethos.bl.uk/) may have the full text of UK theses. To find a specific thesis, enter the author’s surname and a couple of keywords from the title.

It is also possible to do a broad subject search on ETHOS by entering keywords. However, bear in mind that ETHOS contains fewer records than ProQuest and has a less sophisticated search engine. For example, it does not accept the Boolean operator “OR” or the truncation symbol (*). You will therefore need to perform a simple search e.g.:

ERASMUS AND Education

Additional places to look

Universities have institutional repositories where their institution’s theses are electronically deposited. You can try finding the full text in the Institutional Repository for the awarding university, e.g.:

ORA (Oxford), http://ora.ox.ac.uk/
Apollo (Cambridge) https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/
Find others at The Directory of Open Access Repositories – OpenDOAR http://www.opendoar.org/