Beyond books & articles

FINDING THESSES & CONFERENCE PAPERS
Finding dissertations & theses

Why are theses and dissertations useful?
Finding Oxford theses and dissertations
Finding theses and dissertations from other institutions
Why theses?

**Relevance** of original, up-to-date research
Use as a **springboard** to scope existing literature
Provides **inspiration** of ‘the finished product’
**Discovery** of ideas outside a topic’s consensus
See the **evolution** of an author’s ideas over time
Finding theses in Oxford

PRINT

Search via SOLO for theses from 1920s onwards

Ask your subject librarian if you can’t find a thesis

Ability to search for theses by supervisors or department

DIGITAL

Some theses available digitally in the Oxford Research Archive ora.ox.ac.uk

Higher degree students registered since October 2007 must deposit a digital copy; though some are retrospective conversion

Search via SOLO
Finding theses on SOLO

To find a specific thesis:
- Use author surname/keywords from title

To browse theses supervised by a specific academic:
- Use supervisor’s name as search term

To browse theses by department:
- Use department name as search term
- Beware of name changes!

To search by thesis type:
- Use “D.Phil.” or “M.Phil.” as search terms
- Typing Dphil or Mphil brings back fewer results

Use Advanced Search and select “Theses (Oxford)” as Resource Type
Finding theses from other institutions

Databases A-Z
Choose subject > Theses and dissertations

ProQuest Dissertations & Theses

eThOS (ethos.bl.uk)
ProQuest Theses & Dissertations

Mostly North American and UK content

3.8 million dissertations & theses indexed

Over 1.7 million theses with full text availability (mainly US)
eThOS

Service for UK theses via the British Library

Many available for free download (account must be created)

Some theses unavailable or require digitisation
Other options for finding full text theses

Check the research repository for the awarding institution via OpenDOAR (http://www.opendoar.org/)

Ask your subject librarian about inter-library loan – but most universities won’t lend theses

Arrange to visit the awarding university to read the thesis – contact the library first!

Contact the author
Have a go

Apply search string created in ‘Building a search’ exercise to find theses/dissertations on a platform of your choice:

◦ SOLO
◦ ProQuest
◦ EthOS
Finding conference papers

Why conference papers and proceedings are important for research

How you can access conference papers and proceedings through SOLO and online
Why are conference papers important for research?

Discovering the latest research
- Results of research made available before formal publication in a journal

Maintain awareness of developments in your field

Find the ‘journey’ of the research
- See how research has been shaped from conference to journal article
Finding conference papers - online

Many conference papers are free online on Open Access archives such as ORA (Oxford University Research Archive), or on the host society’s web pages.

A quick search for the paper’s title in Google/Google Scholar will often find it:
Finding conference papers - SOLO

Search for the title of the conference in SOLO (Oxford collections)

If you don’t have the full title, try some keywords, such as:
- Organisation name
- Editor’s name
- Location of conference
- Date of Conference
Finding conference papers - SOLO

TIP: For more general searches, use ‘Congresses’ as a subject term in the ‘Advanced Search’ settings on SOLO.
Finding conference papers – print elsewhere

If the conference proceedings are not available in Oxford or online, try searching other libraries via:

- Library Hub Discover (UK research libraries) https://discover.libraryhub.jisc.ac.uk/
- British Library explore.bl.uk
- WorldCat www.worldcat.org

And request an inter-library loan www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/using/ill
Finding conference papers – databases

Most bibliographic databases will include records of conference papers and proceedings

Find subject-relevant databases via Databases A-Z

Many databases allow you to limit results via conference

Also try grey literature resources such as OpenGrey

www.opengrey.eu/
Finding conference papers – databases via Databases A-Z

There are a number of tools and databases which specifically search for conference proceedings and papers:

- **Conference Papers Index** – part of ProQuest; scientific coverage
- **IEEE Conference Proceedings** – physics, engineering, material science and computer science
- **Conference Proceedings Citation Index** – search as part of Web of Science
- **PapersFirst** and **ProceedingsFirst** – available via OCLC FirstSearch
- **Zetoc** – British Library’s table of contents service
Conference Proceedings Citation Index

Part of Web of Science – access via Databases A-Z

Two indexes:
- Science & Technology Proceedings
- Social Sciences & Humanities Proceedings

Coverage 1990- present
Zetoc

Searches through British Library electronic tables of contents for journals and conference proceedings

Coverage 1993- present

Includes an email alerting service for articles and papers

http://zetoc.jisc.ac.uk/

- Zetoc Search > conference search
In summary

Many papers are freely available online – search Google Scholar

Many general or subject indexing databases allow you to search for conference proceedings

There are databases specifically for conference proceedings
In summary

Be aware:

- Varying publication formats and names
- Delays in publication, never published or only available as pre-print or abstract
- Acronyms or abbreviations may feature in the name

Use the inter-library loan service for printed items not held in Oxford

Your subject librarian is always ready to help –
www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/subjects-and-libraries/subjects/librarians
Credits

Slides will be available from libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/workshops
Have a go

Apply search string created in ‘Building a search’ exercise to find conferences in:

SOLO

and

One other platform