Using Primo: Looking for a specific book

This video demonstrates how to use Primo to look for a specific book, for example, a book on a reading list. You can access Primo from the Institution Page section of MyAberdeen or on the Library homepage.

When you land on Primo, you will see the simple search option. However, we recommend that you use the advanced search by clicking on Advanced Search at the right hand side of the search box. We would also encourage you to log in, as this makes linking to online resources simpler. And I will now demonstrate this.

Select the Books+ tab to begin searching for your book. Then type into the search box some words from the book’s title and one author’s surname. For example, if you were looking for:


you would use the keywords: referencing pears cite (then click on Search)

Where you see “multiple versions found”, click on the number of versions on the right hand side to select the correct edition. To see if the book is available and identify its location, click on the Availability tab. This display also shows you the number of copies held by the Library and contains a link to request the item, if it’s already out on loan. Once you have located the book, take it to a self-issue machine to be issued. Please note that different copies may have different loan periods.

“Multiple versions found” can also mean that a book is available in print and electronic form. For example, if we were searching for:


we would use the words referencing plagiarism neville (then click on Search)

Click on the number of versions on the right hand side - and then we see that the first record for this title indicates that we have online access. To navigate to the e-book, right-click on the title and open it in a new tab. You will be linked through to the e-book collection holding the book.

For further guidance on Primo see our other videos or contact members of library staff. More help can also be found online.