Databases

- Databases are used to search for academic information on a topic. They search hundreds, or even thousands, of journals and other sources (conference proceedings, seminars, etc.). Using a database means you do not have to search journals or other sources individually.

- Databases cover different areas of the same subject or have a different emphasis. To comprehensively cover a topic you will have to use several databases.

- Bibliographic databases only give brief details of the articles found, sometimes including the abstract.

- Full-text databases link to the complete article but only from designated publishers (e.g. ScienceDirect will link to articles published by Elsevier).

Accessing databases and journals

- The library's electronic resources are accessed using Primo.

- Go to the Library, Special Collections and Museums homepage at www.abdn.ac.uk/library/, click on the Search Our Collections tab then click on the Search Using Primo link.

- Login to Primo using your University of Aberdeen computer username and password.

- Electronic journals can also be accessed through the library catalogue. You must login to the catalogue using your University computer username and password to do this.

- Electronic resources can be accessed off-campus – for more details see QG DBS005 Accessing electronic information at www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/dbs/qgdbs005.pdf.

- To access journal articles after searching a database, click the SFX button next to the article citation. This will open a window showing the access options for electronic full-text (if available) or offering to search the library catalogue for the journal. Note that a search of the catalogue will return no hits if the journal is not held by the library.

- The NHS Knowledge Network has a selection of databases and electronic journals and is available to most medical students at the University of Aberdeen. You will need to register online at www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/.

See overleaf – flowchart on Searching for a journal article.

Need help?

| Medical Library  
| (General Enquiries) | Tel: 01224-437870  
| E-mail: medlib@abdn.ac.uk |
| Information Consultant  
| (Medicine & Biomedical Sciences) | Mel Bickerton  
| Tel: 01224-437876  
| E-mail: m.bickerton@abdn.ac.uk |