



Education - how to find education resources

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QG EDU001 [<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/qgedu001.pdf>]

Introduction

Education is a very broad term used to describe all aspects of teaching theory and practice, inclusive practice, educational psychology, counselling and even social work, social pedagogy and educational research. The University libraries use the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme (See [Wikipedia's Dewey Decimal entry](#) for a quick introduction) to organise books and other materials. **Education** is at **370**, part of social science, located on **Floor 6** of The Sir Duncan Rice Library along with the [Teaching Resource Collection](#) (TRC) for teaching practice.

This guide aims to give you a very quick introduction to the various resources available to you. If you would like any further information or help with finding and using resources, please contact the **Social Science Subject Team** based on **Floor 6** of The Sir Duncan Rice Library or the **Information Consultant** for the **School of Education**, including Early Years, ITE and TQFE, Claire Molloy, email: c.a.i.molloy@abdn.ac.uk.

New to the Library?

As you can imagine, the Library, like the rest of the University is still operating in pandemic mode which means some things are not quite as we are used to. Check out our COVID-specific pages to find out more: bit.ly/COVID-19LibraryUpdates

Getting Inside

The Sir Duncan Rice Library is on the west-side of campus off Bedford Road – you can't miss it, it is the huge, stripy, glass building! Anyone can visit the Sir Duncan Rice Library but as a student you will need your University ID card to get in and borrow items.

Opening Hours

Our opening hours vary depending on the time in the academic year – full details are here: http://bit.ly/TSDRL_opening-hours

Borrowing

Undergraduates and taught Postgraduates can borrow up to 20 items, Research students can borrow up to 40. If you are an on campus student you will need your ID card and to set up a PIN to allow you to use the self-issue kiosks (these are like self-serve at the supermarket!). Details of how to set up a PIN are emailed out at the start of the first semester or you can email the Subject Team: subjectteam@abdn.ac.uk.

If you are a part-time **distance** student with the School of Education, then a special postal service is available to you. Information can be found within your course in **MyAberdeen** - look out for the **Library Resources or Materials** section on the left-hand menu.

Loan Periods

There are many different loan periods depending on the demand on an item from Heavy Demand (overnight), right through to full academic year. All loans are subject to recall which means you may be asked to return items before the original due date.

You can find out about [borrowing, loans and recalls](#) on our Library website.

How is The Sir Duncan Rice Library laid out?

As noted above we use Dewey Decimal to order our materials and Floors 3-7 are where we hold these. The Entrance or Ground Floor is where you will find the café and the Welcome Desk as well as the returns area and the main swipe gates into the Library. Floor 1 has the main issue desk, heavy demand area and various different study zones. Floor 2 has the main computer classrooms and the hard copy periodicals. Each of the 'collection' floors has various types of study space including silent study rooms, study desks, PCs and comfy seating. You will also find an enquiry point on these floors where you can ask for help finding that book you really need! You can find out more about the [various types of study space](#) on our website and more detail about how we organise the collections floors can be found in our library guides: The [Floor 6 classmarks guide](#) for the Social Sciences and Education and [other Floor classmark guides](#).

But how do I work out which floor items are on?

In order to find your reading you should use our Resource Discovery tool which is called [Primo](#). It allows you to search by title, author or even subject in order to find the e-link or the shelf location. Log in to Primo, click on advanced (to give you a really good search!) and then try one of the following:

- The **Books+** tab lists the thousands of titles we have full immediate e-access to.
- The **Articles+** tab details thousands of articles, book reviews and more.

Note, you won't see these options in the Basic search screen you see when you first go to Primo.

There is [a handy guide all about Primo](#). We have access to millions of items, some are in e-format, some are physical and held in one of our on campus libraries, but some are held in our store located a few miles away. Primo tells you where and how to access an item – anything not on campus or in e-format can be 'requested' using the link in Primo.

Finding Resources

You can use [Primo](#) to find items to read, particularly where you have been given details in a reading list but we have other tools you can use to find even more. Resources such as **British Education Index (BEI)** (available via [EBSCOhost](#)) provide details of over 300 education and training related journals published in the UK, report and conference literature and working papers. **PsycINFO** (available via [Ovid](#)) from the American Psychological Association (APA) contains nearly 2.3 million citations and summaries of scholarly journal articles, book chapters, books, and dissertations, all in psychology and related disciplines such as counselling, sociology, education, linguistics, anthropology and others, dating as far back as the 1800s. [A quick guide to both BEI and PsycINFO](#) is available.

Other useful resources include **International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS)** (available via [ProQuest](#)): produced by **the London School of Economics** and covers social and cultural anthropology, sociology, education, economics, and the political sciences. It provides access to over 2.5 million references dating back to 1951 and current data is taken from over 2,800 selected journals and around 7000 books per annum. [A quick guide to the IBSS](#) is available.

We pay a lot of money for resources such as these and you will have to log in to read anything you find – check out the relevant library guide for details.

Social Theory: offers an extensive selection of documents that explore the complexities and interpret the nature of social behaviour and organization. The collection includes more than 122,000 pages from 346 works by 100 authors. Highlights include 33 volumes of the Complete Works of Marx and Engels and nearly 26,000 pages of German language content. See the [quick guide to the Social Theory database](#).

The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) covers open access journals from across the world and across many disciplines.

The Hathi Trust: Founded in 2008, HathiTrust is a not-for-profit collaborative of academic and research libraries preserving 17+ million digitized items. Anyone can view public domain materials – some is not protected by copyright.

Scottish Government Education Policies gives links to all aspects of the Scottish Government's education policy agenda including links to [GIRFEC](#) and [SHANARRI](#) as well as the [National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan 2020](#).

[Education Scotland](#) also provide links to the [National Improvement Hub](#) as well as links to school inspection reports and curricular materials.

Government Legislation can also be found from [legislation.gov.uk](#) such as [Post-16 Education \(Scotland\) Act 2013](#) and [Child Poverty \(Scotland\) Act 2017](#).

Young Scot also provides useful resources such as the [Youth Commission on Mental Health Services](#) and their [Engaging with Gaelic Online Report](#).

OECD iLibrary: is the online library of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) featuring its **books**, **working papers** and **statistics** and is the gateway to OECD's analysis and data. It contains content published by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), the OECD Development Centre, PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment), and the International Transport Forum (ITF). e.g. [Trends Shaping Education 2019](#)

Box Full of Broadcasts (BOB) contains BBC broadcasts since 1990s and permanent archive of BBC, ITV and Channel 4 and related broadcasts as well as recording of 65 free to air tv channels - millions of broadcasts. Saved lists, create clips...

Reading smarter and evaluating

Getting as much as you can out of your reading requires focus and evaluation skills. The following are just some tips to help:

#1 FOCUS ON THE PURPOSE

First thing's first – switch off EVERYTHING! That means no Insta, no email, no phone, nothing. Social media and email are massively distracting. You need to get in the 'reading zone'. Find a comfortable, quiet space where you can sit with your device uninterrupted by anything and anyone. This is really hard to achieve but is really important to staying on point.

Next thing is related to the first – only look at one book or reading at a time. When you become more fluent at reading academic texts you can start to dip in and out of multiple items at a time, but for now we will concentrate on one text. You now need to consider what is it you are looking for? What questions are you hoping will be answered by reading this ebook? Make a note of your questions – you may find it easier to put them in a table, or in a list format. Do whatever works best for you.

#2 DETERMINE CREDIBILITY

Who has written the text you are reading? Has it been recommended by your Lecturer? Why? Is the author stating fact or opinion? Can you see similarities and parallels with your own ideas, practice or experience? If not, why not? It is not wrong to disagree with an author, you just have to be able to say why and back this up. Use the four 'Ws': *Who? What? Where? Why?* to help you work out if the author is credible. This is sometimes called the CRAAP Test Currency Relevancy Authority Accuracy Purpose - Do they have the knowledge and experience to be writing about this area?

It might be useful to use Stella Cottrell's book – Critical Thinking Skills. Paper copies are in the Library and, although it is not available as an ebook there are some really useful sections on [the book's companion site](#) especially the [Chapter 9 learning resources](#), which gives you 'concise critical notes for books' – a table to complete for each book, who wrote it, what are the key arguments etc. etc. This is really helpful when you first start to read academic texts, some people continue to use them in their PhD studies!

#3 CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION AND KEEP A NOTE OF YOUR REFERENCES

Remember to always keep a note of the author, publisher, year of publication, title etc. of what you are reading. Then note the key points, your own comments and any questions raised. Create your own table or list – whatever works for you. This will form the basis of your assignment.

Reference Management

You might find it useful to organise the references you have found. There are many different free and 'freemium' resources available to help you with your reference management. Try using [Wikipedia's Comparison of reference management software](#) to compare them.

The University of Aberdeen subscribes to [RefWorks](#).

Questions?

Contact the Information Consultant for **The School of Education**, including Early Years, ITE, TQFE and Counselling Claire Molloy: c.a.l.molloy@abdn.ac.uk

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