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 https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/qgdsbs005.pdf.

- To access journal articles after searching a database, click the Find It 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
SEARCHING FOR A JOURNAL ARTICLE

Do you have the complete details of the article?

Yes

Search library catalogue for journal title

Is journal available?

Check for correct year/volume

Yes

Is electronic access available?

Yes

Select Find It button to access electronic copy that can be read or printed

Note library and shelfmark to locate journal

No

Apply for Inter-Library Loan (costs £7.00, or contact your department regarding their ILL policy)

Read/photocopy article at RGU library or join to borrow

No

Is journal available?

No

Search the NHS Knowledge Network online at www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/

Is journal available?

Yes

Search the RGU catalogue online at https://librarysearch.rgu.ac.uk/discovery/search?vid=44RGU_INST:VU1

Is journal available?

No

You will have to search an electronic database

Using Primo, find appropriate database by Name or Category

Search for the article using title/subject keywords

Results list

Click on Find It button next to results

Find It gives access to electronic full text or searches the library catalogue for print version

Journal not available at Aberdeen

No

No

No

Do you have the complete details of the article?

No