

Your Thesis – some tips from the library

Faculty guidance



The History Faculty has guidance on the Thesis on WebLearn (<http://bit.ly/facultythesis>). If you learn early in your research about the style conventions the History Faculty requires and which tools to use to collate and organise your citation, you can save time at the writing stage.

Thesis timeline



Hilary and Trinity Terms (2nd year): Get started by attending a variety of lectures, information sessions and workshops in colleges. The Research skills training sessions take place in Trinity Term (<http://bit.ly/UGtraining>). They can improve your research and information searching skills so that you can search effectively and extensively and find relevant resources efficiently.

Michaelmas Term (3rd year), Friday of 6th week: You need to submit your thesis title.

Hilary Term (3rd year), noon of Friday of 8th week: You need to submit your thesis.

What the library can do for you



Guides by COUNTRY

- [Great Britain and Ireland](#)
See also Guides by PERIOD (below).
- [Oxfordshire History for Continuing Education](#)
- [Western Europe](#)
See also Guides by PERIOD (below).
- [Russia, Central and East Europe](#)
- [United States](#)
- [African Studies](#)
- [Commonwealth countries](#)
- [Middle East](#)
- [China](#)
- [Japan](#)
- [Korea](#)
- [South Asia](#)
- [Latin America](#)

Guides by PERIOD

- [Ancient history](#)
- [Medieval history \(British & W European\)](#)
an old fashioned PDF guide
- [Early modern history \(British & W European\) c 1500-1800](#)
- [Modern history \(British & W European\) c1800-1989](#)
an old fashioned PDF guide

Online guides to history collections offer ideas and contact details of subject specialists for more advice:

Guides by TOPIC

- [Art History](#)
- [History of Science and Medicine - overview](#)
- [Criminal and judicial statistics from 1800 to the present day](#)
- [Legal history: common law tradition](#)
- [Official Papers](#)
e.g. Parliamentary Papers, League of Nations, United Nations, European Documentation Centre
- [Primary Sources Online \(British & W EU\)](#)
A guide to quality online subscription resources available to Oxford users interested in British and Western European history. Covers medieval to modern history.
- [Women's Studies](#)

Browse printed sources

British & Western European history



The Upper Reading Room in the Old Bodleian Library houses the open-shelf collections for British and Western European history (medieval to 20th century). They will include printed sources, often transcribed from manuscripts, such as chronicles, individuals and family papers, papers of monasteries, statesmen, etc. Browse anything in the shelfmark range *K.3-10* for inspiration.

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English local history

The Duke Humfrey's Library in the Old Bodleian Library houses the open-shelf collections for local history. They are often fantastic source materials relevant for all periods but particularly medieval and early modern. Browse anything in the shelfmark range *R.Top* for ideas.

Other countries (US, Africa, Commonwealth, Middle East, Far East)

If you are interested in the histories of other countries or topics, browse the online list of college and Oxford libraries useful for historians: <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/history/about/links>.



Access to special collections

You will be using libraries and possibly archives to locate sources and critical materials, whether locally or elsewhere, so consider signing up for training to strengthen your search skills and learn more about using finding aids (<http://bit.ly/UGtraining>).

If you are going to be using the manuscripts and rare books collections (<http://bit.ly/speccolls>) of the Bodleian Library, then you will need to request permission to access those by completing the "Request to access to Bodleian Special Collections" form (available to download as a PDF from <http://bit.ly/HistoryUG>).



Reference Management Software

Constructing a bibliography? Don't let the citations overwhelm you. There are tools to help you. You can save time by learning about these tools before you gather all your references during your research. For more information visit the Managing Your References LibGuide (<http://ox.libguides.com/reference-management>). The recommended tool for undergraduate theses is *RefWorks*. Consider attending the RefWorks for your Thesis course in Trinity Term.

Book online at <http://bit.ly/UGtraining>

Seek help

Library staff are very happy to help you with literature searches, finding source materials, use library catalogues, databases, e-journals, etc. You can contact us in a variety of ways.



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www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/history

You can also arrange a **one-to-one session** with the History Librarian or drop in:

Office: Upper Reading Room,
Old Bodleian

E: isabel.holowaty@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

Tel: 01865 277294

