

Exercises

Try finding theses related to your research area using one of the platforms below – SOLO, ORA, ProQuest or EThOS and OpenDOAR.

A. Oxford theses

Tip 1: in SOLO go to **Advanced Search** and select '**Theses (Oxford)**' under **Resource Type**.

Use **SOLO** (<http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>) to search for:

1. Theses in your research area
 - think about your own search string, e.g. find **Theses** containing the words:
(youth OR young OR juvenile) AND crim*
2. Theses supervised by your supervisor
 - e.g. **Roger Goodman**

Tip 2: Find **ORA** through SOLO's useful links (or go directly from <http://ora.ox.ac.uk/>) to find digitised Oxford theses from 2007 onwards*.

- Search using **All Fields**
- Search by using a **Keyword e.g. Rowan Douglas Williams**. Review your results.

B. British, Irish and Global Theses

ProQuest

Use ProQuest's **Dissertations and Theses** databases to search for **full-text** and **abstracts** of theses in your research area from the UK, Ireland and globally.

From the Useful links menu on SOLO, select the databases A-Z

1. In the 'Search for databases' menu type "dissertations". Click 'Go'. View the results.
2. Select **ProQuest and Dissertations and Theses Global (full text plus UK and Ireland abstracts)**.
3. **The default search option is a basic search.** To perform a more effective search, click on **Advanced search** above the search box.
4. Type your own search string into the boxes provided, making sure you use a separate line for each search concept, as demonstrated previously.
For example:

“Asylum seeker*” OR “refugee*”
child* OR minor? OR juvenile*
“human rights”

5. The right-hand drop-down menu defaults to search **Anywhere**. If searching the Full-Text database, this also searches the full-text where available. To make your search more focused:

- Try changing this to **Anywhere except full text – NOFT** for each line.
 - Try changing this to **Abstract – AB** for each line.
 - Try changing this to **Document title – TI** for each line.
6. You have a range of options to limit your search. Click on 'Modify search' to return to the results screen.
- To filter by a specific thesis supervisor, use the **Advisor** search box, or click on **Look up advisor** for a drop-down list. NB - the advisor search does not work for UK and Irish theses.
 - To restrict results to full-text only, tick the box to **Limit to: Full text**

C. EThOS (optional or for your free time)

EThOS (<http://ethos.bl.uk/>) may have the full text of UK theses. To find a specific thesis, enter the author's surname and a couple of keywords from the title. However, EThOS has a less sophisticated search engine. For example, the truncation symbol (*) does not work on it. You will therefore need to perform a search using the appropriate **Boolean terms** from the **dropdown menu** on the **advanced search mode** and simplified terms.

E.g.: **Asylum Seeker AND Child**

D. Further practice for your free time - Additional places to look

1. Try out some of the databases listed on Databases A-Z from your results above

2. Go to **OpenDOAR** <https://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/opensoar/>
 - a. Go to the advanced search. Select on '**Content types**' → **Theses and dissertations**. Select '**Subject**' e.g. **History and Archaeology**. Browse your results.
 - b. Select the Advanced search menu again. Write an organisation name, e.g. **Strasbourg** (for the University of Strasbourg). Click on '**Search**'. Browse your results. How do they differ from the previous search?

Questions? We are happy to help! Please e-mail

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*There has been a recent attempt to digitise pre-2007 Oxford theses retrospectively on ORA.