Beyond books & articles

Finding Theses
Finding dissertations & theses

Finding Oxford theses and dissertations

Finding theses and dissertations from other institutions
Why theses?

**Relevance** of up-to-date research

**Springboard** to scope existing literature

**Inspiration** of ‘the finished product’

**Discovery** of ideas outside a topic’s consensus

**Evolution** of an author’s ideas over time
## Finding theses in Oxford

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Print</th>
<th>Digital</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Search via SOLO for theses from 1920s onwards</td>
<td>Oxford Research Archive <a href="https://ora.ox.ac.uk">ora.ox.ac.uk</a> (via SOLO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Ask the awarding Oxford department</td>
<td>Higher degree students registered since October 2007 must deposit a digital copy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Ask your subject librarian</td>
<td></td>
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Finding theses on SOLO

To find a specific thesis:
◦ Use author surname/keywords from title

To browse theses supervised by a specific academic:
◦ Use supervisor’s name as search term

To browse theses by department:
◦ Use department name as search term
◦ Beware of name changes!

To search by thesis type:
◦ Use “D.Phil.” or “M.Phil.” as search terms
◦ Typing Dphil or Mphil brings back fewer results

Use Advanced Search and select “Theses (Oxford)” as Resource Type
Finding theses from other institutions

On Databases A-Z Type → dissertations
ProQuest Dissertations & Theses

Global (including UK and Irish content)

Millions of dissertations & theses indexed

Over 2.1 million theses with full text availability (mainly US)
eThOS

- UK theses via the British Library
- Many available for free download (account must be created)
- Some theses unavailable or require digitisation
- Basic search features only (not special characters such as * etc)

Search EThOS

Search over 500,000 doctoral theses. Download instantly for your research, or order a scanned copy quickly and easily.

[Search page screenshot]
OpenDOAR

- Browse OpenDOAR for a specific awarding institution abroad. [https://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/opendoar/](https://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/opendoar/)
- Use the **advanced search** menu to filter your results
Other options for finding full text theses

Inter-library loan (check with the awarding institution)

Visit the awarding university – contact the library first!

Contact the author
Handouts:

- Hidden Treasures: Key Links for Finding Theses and Dissertations
- Theses search exercises (SOLO, ProQuest, EThOS)

Available at:
https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/workshops/handouts