

Hello and welcome to this video tutorial of iSkills: Scholarly literature for your research- Finding theses beyond Oxford.

In this video tutorial, we are going to discover tools you can use to find theses and dissertations beyond Oxford, learn search tips and how to use Databases A-Z to find theses databases, and finally learn where to find further help.

The tools that we're going to be using to find theses beyond Oxford are:

SOLO, the resource and discovery tool of the major collections of the libraries of the University of Oxford. Older foreign theses from 1920s-1950s can be found there. Furthermore, here you may browse and find individual digital theses listed on the major theses and dissertations databases.

The second tool is Databases A-Z, which is a collection of databases that the University of Oxford subscribes to. All of the theses databases can be searched individually on SOLO, but as you will see later, Databases A-Z can be filtered by subject, something that you cannot do on SOLO. To find a specific thesis on SOLO, use the author's surname and keywords from the title in your search. You can also search for a specific thesis database if you know its name, or browse dissertations and theses databases by searching the Databases A-Z option on SOLO's initial page.

So now I'm going to demonstrate how to look up for theses beyond Oxford using SOLO and Databases A-Z.

So first I'm going to open a new window with SOLO, and I'm going to ensure that I am signed in on the top right-hand side corner. Now I'm going to the search bar and, I am looking for a thesis, titled *Molecular Simulation of Diffusion in Electrolytes* by Wheeler Dean Richard. This was a cancelled interlibrary loan request. So, I'm entering those words, *Molecular simulation of diffusion in electrolytes* and click search.

And now I'm going to the left-hand side pane where I can sort and filter my results. So, I go under 'Resource Type' and I select 'Theses and Dissertations', and I apply the filters. So, this is the first result in our list. If I click on online access, it will take me to a full text availability link. So, I click under that the 'Access content in ProQuest', and a new pop up window will appear with the thesis available in ProQuest Dissertations and Theses. And here we have full text access.

So now I'm going to demonstrate how to lookup for databases using SOLO. I open a new fresh window on SOLO, and we have three boxes. The third one to the right is titled 'Useful Links'. I'm going to go and select Databases A to Z from it. This will open a new window with all the databases that Oxford subscribes to.

Towards the beginning of the page, we have three dropdown boxes and a free text box. So, starting from the left going to the right the first box is titled 'All Subjects'. Here you can filter databases by subject. I scroll down until I find 'Theses and Dissertations', and the results for those databases are 21, so I select this one.

Now I'm going to show you how to look up for theses and dissertations databases using the free text box, the last option. So, I go back, I filter out the first the drop-down menu, and I go to the last box, the one to the right-hand side, and I type the word dissertations, and I click go. This in contrast to the previous menu, the drop down menu, it has found 58 databases.

The difference between these is that the latter is a broader search and brings back results of databases, which may combine more than one type of resources in them, for example, conferences and dissertations and theses and so on.

Once you have found a database you would like to take a look at, you can use your search query to browse theses related to it, or you can browse for a specific thesis, if you already know the title and the author.

Now we have concluded our presentation. We first did a live SOLO demonstration, followed by a demonstration of how to browse databases of theses and dissertations using the databases A-Z menu. To discover further search tips and databases of theses beyond Oxford, watch the video tutorial titled 'Searching Theses Databases Beyond Oxford'.

All the video tutorials are available at the link on this slide, along with more iSkills training and details about your Subject Librarian.

By the end of this video tutorial, you should have discovered which tools to use to find theses beyond Oxford, learned search tips and how to use Databases A-Z to find theses' databases, and finally learned where to find further help.

Thank you for watching this video.