

How to find specialised information

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1. How to find journal articles

Journals, like newspapers, yearbooks, newsletters, etc., are a type of regular publication. Today, they are considered an important source of highly specialised, up-to-date information.

1.1. Which articles are of interest: types of journals

There are three basic types of regular publications:

1) **Magazines:** Written for the lay public in order to provide information.

Magazines can be used to find:

- a) Information or opinions **about culture in general.**
- b) Information about **recent events.**
- c) General articles for non-specialists, useful for providing an introductory overview of a subject.

2) **Scientific journals:** Collection of papers written by academics in their fields of expertise. A publisher reviews the papers and decides which ones to accept. The papers report on recent studies or scientific debates on specific topics. Access to scientific journals is not usually free, and they are generally found in document databases.

Scientific journals can be used to:

- a) Perform **academic searches.**
- b) Find **past and current research** on a given topic.
- c) Find **bibliographic references** for a topic.

3) **Newspapers:** Collection of articles about recent events that is published daily. Newspapers provide information about current events and show trends in public opinion. Back issues are a valuable source of information.

Newspapers are used to:

- a) Find **up-to-date information** on local, national and international events.
- b) Find **editorials, commentary and general and expert opinions.**

1.2. How to find an article when you have the bibliographic reference

1) If you have the details of the article you would like to find, you can **search for it directly using the journal title.**

For example, you can use the UOC Library's catalogue (for print journals) or e-journal search engine (for online publications) to find the journal, determine whether the issue you need is available and, if so, access the full text. If the journal or issue is not available, you can use the **Library's document supply service**.

The Library's e-journal search engine allows the students, faculty and researchers at the UOC to browse and view, first hand and quite easily, the Library's entire collection of subscription and open-access e-journals.

This tool offers direct full-text access to each journal's content or, when a journal is not available, instructions on other ways to access it, such as through the Library's document supply service. It moreover offers a series of advanced value-added services, such as the ability to view abstracts and journal impact factors or to export bibliographic references using the reference manager Re-fWorks.



E-journal search engine tutorial: <http://biblioteca.uoc.edu/cat/cdigital/>

Manual_SFX.pdf

If you have the full bibliographic reference for an article (author and title of the article; name, ISSN, issue, number and year of the journal), you can use the **Library's article finder**, completing as many fields as possible:

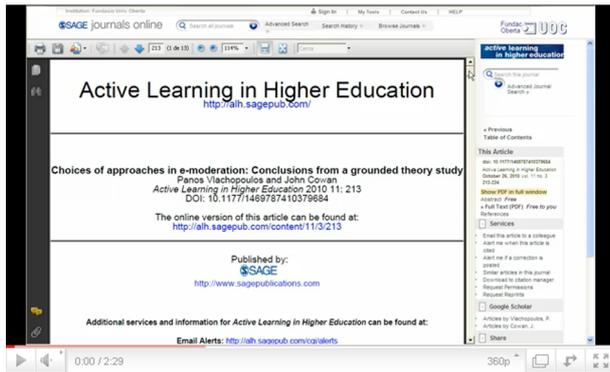
- a) Full name of the journal (otherwise, use an asterisk to indicate that the name may be longer).
- b) Journal ISSN (if you do not have this information, indicate the journal's name as precisely as possible).
- c) Volume, number and first and last pages.

Another way to find articles is by using the Consortium of Catalan University Libraries' (CBUC) e-TOC database, which allows you to search the tables of contents of more than 13,000 journals. It also includes online forms to request inter-library loans automatically.

1.3. How to find an article when you do not have the bibliographic reference

If you do not have the reference for the article, are missing some information or need to find articles on a given topic or by a given author, you should start your search using a document database, preferably one specialised in the relevant subject matter. For example, you might search the databases available at the UOC Library, which contain article references and, sometimes, the full text of the articles themselves.

uoc Search an article- Information Literacy



The screenshot shows the SAGE Journals online interface. The main article title is "Active Learning in Higher Education" with the URL <http://alh.sagepub.com/>. Below the title, it lists the authors "Panos Vlachopoulos and John Cowan" and the journal information "Active Learning in Higher Education 2010 11: 213" with a DOI of 10.1177/1489787410379684. It also provides the online version URL <http://alh.sagepub.com/content/11/3/213>. The publisher is identified as SAGE with the URL <http://www.sagepublications.com>. At the bottom, there is an "Email Alerts" link: <http://alh.sagepub.com/alerts>. The page also features a search bar, navigation tabs, and a sidebar with additional options like "Table of Contents" and "This Article".

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzjlnSaOPDY>

Finally, if the Library does not have the journal you are looking for, see the section Document supply service.

2. How to find doctoral theses

Doctoral theses are useful sources of information to learn about specific scientific, technical or artistic fields, generally within the sphere of universities and research centres. They are used to disseminate new research findings and are written for a very specific and highly specialised audience.

The Library's catalogues can be used to search for theses in print form. There are also several **online collections and repositories of doctoral theses**, both in Spain and at the international level, that allow different institutions to index and digitalise their theses so anyone can find them and, often, access the full text thereof.

2.1. Theses in print form

The most appropriate resources for finding doctoral theses in print form are library catalogues.

For example, the Catalan University Union Catalogue (CCUC) can be used to find theses by entering "doctoral theses" in the "Subject" field. Likewise, the Spanish University Library Network (REBIUN) can be used to find theses through the "doctoral thesis" collection.

2.2. Online thesis collections

NATIONAL

1) **TDX (Online Doctoral Theses)**: This is a cooperative repository of doctoral theses, in digital format, read at universities in Catalonia and other Spanish regions. It can be used to view the full text of theses online, as well as to search remotely by author, advisor, title, subject matter, university and department where the thesis was read, year defended, etc. This repository is managed by the Consortium of Catalan University Libraries (CBUC) and the Supercomputing Centre of Catalonia (CESCA) and is sponsored by the Catalan government.

2) **TESEO**: This doctoral thesis database, TDX's counterpart at the Spain-wide level, is run by the Spanish Ministry of Education and includes theses read and successfully defended at Spanish universities since 1976. It allows searches by author, university, department, advisor, academic year, subject matter and abstract. It includes the bibliographic description and abstract, i.e., the full reference for each thesis.

3) **DIALNET**: A portal for disseminating Spanish research. In addition to offering access to scientific journals, it is also a doctoral thesis database with theses from Spain's almost 40 universities (including those included in the TDX). It allows searches by author, title and subject area. It includes a description and access to the full text.

4) **Institutional repositories**: Universities have embraced the creation of systems that enable the open-access (OA) dissemination of their scientific and academic work, including doctoral theses and other academic materials. At the UOC, this initiative has taken the form of the **institutional repository O2 (or "the Oberta in Open Access")**. The O2 can be used to find theses read at the UOC as part of the Information and Knowledge Society doctoral programme, as well as a selection of research papers (RPs), practical activities and final projects (FPs) by students who have successfully completed the relevant subjects given in the University's different fields of study.

INTERNATIONAL

1) **DART-Europe E-theses portal**: A project offering access to European doctoral theses. It is a partnership of research libraries and library consortia, including the Consortium of Catalan University Libraries (CBUC), of which the UOC Library is a member.

2) **Cybertesis – Online digital theses**: A database run by the University of Chile offering full-text access to doctoral theses from universities from around the world. It allows you to search by author, title, abstract or keyword. There are also quick searches by university, year and country. It includes a bibliographic description and, usually, access to the full text.

3) **NDLTD – Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations**: A database offering free full-text access to dissertations, final projects and theses from over 80 schools around the world.

4) **MIT Thesis Collection Online**: A database of science and technology theses dating back to 1888 selected by the MIT library service. It allows you to search by keyword of the title, author or abstract, in alphabetical order by author or by year. Only the first 87 pages of a document and the bibliographic reference can be viewed free of charge.

5) **ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Database (PQDT)**: Commercial database offering access to over 2 million international dissertations and theses dating back to 1861. It is a comprehensive collection, including theses read in the last two years at universities from around the world, with special emphasis on the United States and Canada. It can be accessed through the UOC Library and

allows you to search the entire database or only those documents for which the full text is available. All records and bibliographic citations are linked to the UOC Library's e-journal search engine.

6) Redial – European theses on Latin America: Database of Latin American studies doctoral theses read at European universities. It includes bibliographic references for theses dating back to 1980 and allows searches by fields such as ethnicity or people cited, as well as more traditional categories such as author and title. It is a joint project between the European Network of Information and Documentation on Latin America (REDIAL) and the Centre for Scientific Information and Documentation (CINDOC).

3. How to find other scientific information

Another type of specialised, scientific information is unpublished digital documentation generated by the academic, professional and research worlds. This type of information is used to announce the findings of a given study to colleagues in the field. It is therefore an extremely valuable primary source for investigators in a given area that encourages the dissemination of and access to research results.

This group of resources includes: draft publications (preprints, or papers that have not been peer-reviewed, and postprints, or papers that have); technical and research reports; presentations and talks at conferences; technical standards; working papers; teaching materials; book chapters; and any other form of scientific publication in digital format that can be accessed online, often in full.

This type of scientific information is an alternative means of scientific publication and communication, based on international open-access initiatives. To find it, open-access repositories are used, i.e. digital archives created and maintained to facilitate free universal access to scientific information in digital format in order to promote research and scholarship.

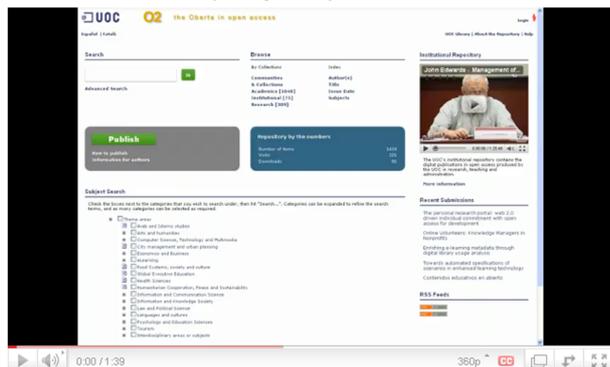
Thus, the following **institutional and research repositories** are particularly useful for searching for scientific information:

NATIONAL

1) O2 ("The Oberta in Open Access") institutional repository

Allows users to view the open-access digital publications on research, teaching and administration produced by the UOC. It includes articles, papers, teaching materials, final degree projects, doctoral theses, etc. for the purpose of collecting, preserving and organising the UOC's scientific output and its annual report and, in particular, disseminating it, thus making it more visible and increasing its impact.

UOC UOC Virtual Library - Repository search



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6spB2Wnmag>

2) **RECERCAT** (Catalan research repository): A cooperative repository of digital documents from universities and other research centres in Catalonia, including the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. This repository includes and offers access to specialised information and unpublished research. Its purpose is to raise the profile of research conducted in Catalonia, whilst at the same time contributing to the global movement to make academic and research work available online and free of charge. The project is coordinated by the Consortium of Catalan University Libraries and by the Supercomputing Centre of Catalonia and is sponsored by the Catalan government.

2) **RACO** (Catalan Journals in Open Access): A cooperative repository that can be used to gain open full-text access to Catalan scientific, cultural and scholarly journals. Full-text access to the articles in the repository is free; however, reproductions, distribution, public dissemination or the total or partial transformation thereof is subject to the terms and conditions of each journal and may require the express written consent of the authors and/or publishing institutions.

3) **RECOLECTA**: A portal offering research papers written at different Spanish academic institutions. It is an extremely useful tool for the university community and, in particular, for faculty and research staff. The information it contains is organised into categories and can be accessed, openly, by means of a search engine. The project is financed by the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECyT).

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

1) **Driver**: A European project consisting of a portal for open-access research results. It is a service-oriented site that gathers qualitative data from different repositories. It then provides open access to the full text of the files.

2) **OAISTER**: A union catalogue with millions of records, housed at the University of Michigan since 2002. It consists of digital records from open-archive collections worldwide that were harvested using the Open Archives Initiative

Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH). The wide range of available resources includes research papers and theses. It allows you to search by subject and includes a variety of filter options to facilitate retrieval.

There are also other helpful resources for finding more specific repositories, namely, **repository directories**. These tools allow you to search within a set of repositories and find specific ones for a given subject, field of study or country. A good example is PubMed Central (PMC), a project developed by the National Center for Biotechnology Information at the National Library of Medicine in the US, designed to provide open access to biomedical and life sciences journal literature. Other excellent repository directories include:

1) **OpenDOAR**: An authoritative directory of academic open-access repositories. In addition to providing a list of available repositories, it allows you to search for repositories and to search their contents. The project is backed by the Open Society Institute (OSI), along with the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), the Consortium of Research Libraries (CURL) and SPARCEurope.

2) **ROAR**: This is a registry of open-access repositories. It aims to promote the development of open access by providing timely information about the growth and status of repositories around the world. It offers open access to research, thereby maximising the impact thereof with a view to making research more productive and effective.

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