

Literature Searching for Researchers

Learning and Information Services

Today

- An introduction to literature searching
- Some useful information
- You have a go at constructing a comprehensive search strategy for your topic - plenty of time for questions
- Where to get further help

Your learning centre experience

- Have you had an induction with a librarian?
- Have you seen your subject librarian individually?
- What do you want to learn today?

Researcher Subject Guide

- Library Gateway
- More options and services
- Help for researchers <http://libguides.shu.ac.uk/research>

The screenshot shows the top section of a web page. On the left is the Sheffield Hallam University logo in red and black. To its right is the text 'Library Gateway'. Below the logo is a breadcrumb trail: 'Library Gateway » Library Guides » Research'. The main heading is 'Research' followed by the sub-heading 'Help for researchers'. A row of meta-information includes: 'Last Updated: Sep 17, 2013', 'URL: http://libguides.shu.ac.uk/research', and icons for 'Print Guide', 'RSS Updates', 'Email Alerts', and a 'SHARE' button. Below this is a horizontal navigation bar with buttons for 'Home', 'Theses', 'Citation searching', 'Alerts', 'Journal impact', 'Research in progress', and 'Other libraries'. At the bottom left, there is a 'Home' link, a 'Comments(0)' icon, and a 'Print Page' icon.

Sheffield Hallam University Library Gateway

Library Gateway » Library Guides » Research

Research

Help for researchers

Last Updated: Sep 17, 2013 | URL: <http://libguides.shu.ac.uk/research> | Print Guide | RSS Updates | Email Alerts | SHARE

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Tips for searching a database

- Include alternative words and abbreviations and join them together with OR
- Asterisk * acts as truncation, so dent* pulls up dentist and dentists and dental
- Phrase searching sometimes requires "speech marks". Depends on the database used.

Using a controlled vocabulary

- Referred to as Thesaurus terms
- Searched in addition to the article title and abstract
- Can often be discovered when browsing search results or sometimes searched for directly.
- Available in some databases only, for example PubMed but not Web of Science. Not used in databases in all subject areas.

My topic

- Student satisfaction ratings for online courses

online course*



AND student satisfaction

AND university

Think of other ways of expressing these concepts.
Look for clues in your results.

I'm going to search for articles in Scopus.

Use alternate terms

Search history	Combine queries... <i>e.g. #1 AND NOT #3.</i>	 
2 (TITLE-ABS-KEY("online course" OR "distance learning" OR e-learning OR e-learner) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY("student satisfaction" OR "student engagement" OR "customer satisfaction") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY(university OR "higher education"))		237 document results
1 (TITLE-ABS-KEY("online course") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY("student satisfaction") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY(university))		34 document results

Adding alternate terms to the search retrieves more articles.

Screen image of search

"Or" means I don't mind which term my articles contain

[Document search](#) | [Author search](#) | [Affiliation search](#) | [Advanced search](#) [Browse Sources](#)

<input "distance="" "online="" course"="" e-learning"="" learning"="" or="" type="text" value='"online course" or "distance learning" or e-learning"/></td><td><input type="text" value="Article Title, Abstract, Keywords"/></td></tr><tr><td><input type="text" value="AND"/></td><td><input type="text" value="Search for..."/></td></tr><tr><td><input type="text" value="Article Title, Abstract, Keywords"/></td><td><input type="text" value="Article Title, Abstract, Keywords"/></td></tr></table></div><div data-bbox="91 583 989 626" data-label="Text"><p>"And" means my articles must contain a word from each row</p></div><div data-bbox="47 662 862 884" data-label="Form"><p>Document search Author search Affiliation search Advanced search Browse Sources</p><table border="1"><tr><td><input type="text" value='/>	<input type="text" value="Article Title, Abstract, Keywords"/>
<input type="text" value="AND"/>	

Keeping up to date

- Databases search alerts will let you know when a new article is published in your topic area.
- Set up journal contents page alerts on the journal home page.
- RSS feeds or Twitter to keep up to date with professional bodies, associations, funding councils.

Activity: exploring databases

20 minutes

- **Search for information on your topic**
- **Record your search:**
 - your search terms
 - synonyms and alternate words
 - how you limited your search (eg date, language)
 - **Tip:** use the SHU Links button to see whether SHU subscribes to the article. **NB.** if not in stock order through the [Document Supply Service](#).

SHU Harvard Referencing

Definitive referencing guide on the Library Gateway

Harvard referencing help guides

Guide to Referencing and Citations

The definitive guide!

The Sheffield Hallam University [Guide to Referencing and Citations](#) offers detailed and comprehensive guidance on the **Harvard referencing style** recommended at SHU, including

- why you need to reference
- how to cite in your work
- how to produce a bibliography

With examples of how to cite and reference a huge number of different types of material.

Guide to Referencing and Citations

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Learning and Information Services

Reference Management

- We've shown you how to find articles
- Now you need to manage them!
- Come along to our Reference Management session

Help is available on the Library Gateway - see the RefWorks tab in "Help on Referencing".



RefWorks

Sources of help

- Your LIS subject adviser (staff can click [here](#) for names, otherwise please contact us)
- learning.centre@shu.ac.uk
- 0114 225 3333
- The researcher's guide: <http://libguides.shu.ac.uk/research>
- The [subject guide](#) for your subject
- Visit the learning centre Helpdesk