

Hello and welcome to this video tutorial of Scholarly literature for your research.

This video tutorial is going to demonstrate how to find theses at Oxford.

We're going to discover tools you can use to find theses and dissertations at Oxford, learn search tips and how to run effective search queries to find theses and dissertations and finally, learn where to find further help.

The tools that we're going to be using to find theses and dissertations at Oxford are two: the first tool is SOLO, the resource and discovery tool of the major collections of the libraries of the University of Oxford. Print theses from 1920s onwards can be found there.

The second tool that we are going to be using is ORA, which stands for Oxford Research Archive, Oxford University's Digital Repository. Higher degree students registered since October 2007, are required to submit a digital copy of their thesis to ORA. There has been a recent attempt to digitise pre-2007 Oxford theses retrospectively on ORA, therefore contains digital scans of some older theses.

Theses in ORA can also be searched via SOLO. If a digital copy is not available as full text, please contact ORA staff, as they might be able to contact the thesis author and arrange for you to receive a copy of the thesis for personal use. Please note that if you are looking for a more recent thesis, you may need to contact the institution in Oxford if a thesis does not appear on SOLO or ORA yet.

To find a specific thesis on SOLO, use the author's surname and keywords from the title in your search. Alternatively, you can use supervisor's name as a search term. If you would like to browse theses by department, use the department's name, but be aware that departments' names can change over time. You can also search by thesis type, for example D.Phil. or M.Phil. can be used as search terms, however, typing Dphil or Mphil in a different format, for example, without diacritics, will bring back fewer results.

I am now going to demonstrate how to look up for theses on SOLO. So first I open the new tab with SOLO. I have already signed in on the right-hand side corner using my Single Sign on. Now I'm going towards the middle of the screen to the search bar and I select 'Advanced Search' next to it. Here we have a few options, and more search criteria. We go to the right-hand side towards the middle of the screen, and we select under material type Dissertations and Theses.

Now I'm going to search for a thesis using a supervisor's name, in this case, I am going to use Gary Lock. So I enter this term as a keyword and I click on 'Search'. I scroll down to the menu and I can see that there are 36 results, all of them theses that Gary Locke has supervised.

Now go back to SOLO to the initial page and I'm going to find the link to ORA. This can be found under Useful Links, the menu in the third box to the right-hand side on the bottom of the page. So, I select ORA under useful links and a new window appears. And here I can search again using my search terms.

In this case, I want to find a thesis written by Edoardo Borgomeo. So I fill in some keywords, i.e., author's name and surname and hit 'Search'. We have 15 results appearing on our search. Luckily, we can further filter our results and further refine them, on the left-hand side pane under the menu titled 'Item Type'. So I select 'Thesis'. We have two results. Both of them are theses from Borgomeo Edoardo, one of them is Open Access, which is what I was aiming for, the first result, so I click on the first result titled *Climate Change and Water Resources: Risk Based Approaches for Decision Making*.

This opens a new window. Under the 'Thesis Title' there is an abstract, and just below that there is an option titled 'Access Document' and it has an Open Access file in PDF format so you can download the thesis.

We have now demonstrated how to find theses at Oxford. To find theses outside of Oxford, watch our video tutorial titled 'Finding Theses Beyond Oxford'. All these video tutorials are available at the link provided on the slide, as well as more iSkills training and how to contact your Subject Librarian. By the end of this video tutorial, you should have discovered which tools to use to find theses at Oxford, learn search tips, and where to find further help.

Thank you for watching this video.