

Hello and welcome to the final video tutorial of iSkills: Scholarly literature for your research. In this third video tutorial, we're going to explore how to find theses beyond Oxford by using databases and institutional repositories. In this video tutorial, therefore, we're going to learn how to use databases A-Z to find theses databases, discover theses databases beyond Oxford and learn where to find further help.

The tools that we're going to be using to find theses beyond Oxford are first databases, A-Z, a collection of databases that Oxford subscribes to. All the theses databases can be searched individually on SOLO, but as you will see later, unlike SOLO, databases A-Z can be filtered by subject. Secondly, we're going to be using directories of repositories where open access theses can be found.

Now we're going to be moving to a live demonstration of finding theses and dissertations using databases A-Z and institutional repositories.

So I'm going to share my screen. I'm going to SOLO and I'm opening a window there. Notice that I have signed in on the top right-hand side corner. I am going to the third box to the right-hand side titled Useful Links, and I'm selecting databases A-Z. This has opened a new window and there are several drop down menus.

Starting from the left going to the right, there are three drop down menus. The first one, is titled All Subjects, where you can filter results by database type. There is an entry for theses and dissertations, but we are not going to follow that one. We're going to go to the free text box, which is the fourth option on the right-hand side, and we're going to type in the word dissertations. The reason I'm doing so is because this will bring back results of databases that include dissertations and theses in their list of results, as well as other types of materials, for example, conference proceedings any special archive material, any open access materials, etc.

So I'm scrolling down to the materials that we've got access to and I'm selecting ProQuest Dissertations and Theses and I'm clicking on it. And since I'm signed in on SOLO using my Single Sign On, I have already access provided. So if you don't have the top message "Access provided by University of Oxford", you may want to go back to SOLO and sign in using your Single Sign On. otherwise you may lose full text results.

ProQuest Dissertations and Theses is the world's most comprehensive collection of full text dissertations and theses. It includes millions of searchable citations to dissertations and theses from 1861 to the present day, together with over a million full text dissertations that are available for download in PDF format.

Over 2.1 million titles are available for purchase as print copies, and more than 70,000 new full text dissertations and theses are added to the database each year.

So I'm here in the Advanced Search menu. As you can see, we can add rows with linking words that include or exclude results, so if you have a research question, you can browse for subjects on that research question and broaden your search, by using synonyms or narrowing your search by using exact specific terms, that must all be present. And you can also include results found anywhere or in the abstract. That might be a good idea, because the abstract will bring all the topics that you are researching, and this will give you a broader scope of results, a better, more focussed scope of results suitable to your research.

If we want to find theses related to the subject of social housing in post-World War 2 Britain, we can enter some keywords. We have, for example, social housing, social policy, as a term in Britain. And as you can see, when I'm typing in keywords, we have some automatically generated suggestions. So I

go and write post-World War 2, it gives me this automated suggestion. We don't have to enclose phrases in quotes because these are automatically converted into phrases by the database.

And if we hit search. We have 2503 results. So we can on the left hand side, filter the date range and click on Update, and this narrows down further our results. And then we can further filter them, by relevance, by the most recent, etc.

So this is one example of a database that we can search. The other example that I'm going to demonstrate now is to check institutional repositories. For the purposes of this, we'll go back to databases A-Z. We can check any other databases.

Something that captures my attention is the Open dissertations, which is a search interface to locate open access theses and dissertations from hundreds of universities, mostly in the UK and US, the full text of these can be downloaded. And we can search that.

This gives me again a similar interface, where we can choose databases and select keywords.

The final resource I'm going to share with you is a compilation of institutional repositories titled OpenDOAR. This is a global directory of Open Access repositories. You can search through thousands of registered repositories for different academic institutions based on the country, software, or the type of material they hold.

So if we go to the search bar, we have a very simple search bar, but we can browse by country or go to the advanced search. This is what I'm going to do now. And we have several menus over here. For the purposes of this video, I'm going to use the name or acronym of organisation and the content types, theses and dissertations.

So I'm selecting the University of Lille in France. This gives me three results of the University of Lille. That's what I want. I will go to the second one and select the repository URL. And this will take me to the institutional repository where I can do a search for a document or a subject. This is fantastic because as we saw before, OpenDOAR can take you to thousands of institutional repositories, and you can browse them either by country or by the university if you have one in mind that, you know, runs similar projects on research topics to your own

So this was our live demonstration. We first covered some databases how to find out databases from databases A-Z, followed by a demonstration of different databases that can be found there, as well as the Open Access database and its features and the Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR), where you can browse thousands of institutional repositories.

More video tutorials regarding finding theses at Oxford or how to find theses beyond Oxford, using SOLO can be found by following the link on this slide titled Further Help, along with more iSkills training as well as your Subject Librarian's contact details.

By the end of this video tutorial, you should have discovered which tools to use to find theses beyond Oxford, learnt search tips and how to use databases A-Z, as well as institutional repositories and separate databases to find theses, and finally learnt where to find further help.

Thank you for watching this video.