



# **iSkills for Undergraduate Science: Successful searching for your assignment**

Alessandra Vetrugno and Karine Barker

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# 01

Where to find good quality research information for your assignments

# 02

Searching academic databases

# 03

Planning a search and practise standards search techniques

# 04

Troubleshoot your searches

# Welcome!

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# Feedback and questions

Please use the Padlet to note down any questions, comments or feedback you have during the session.

<https://tinyurl.com/iSkillsComments>

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Research papers can be used to find some of the latest and most authoritative research on a topic.



You will be making extensive use of academic papers throughout your course.



This means you need to know where to find them!




# Finding Research papers



# Finding resources: SOLO & Browzine



The screenshot shows the SOLO search interface. At the top, there are logos for SOLO (SEARCH OXFORD LIBRARIES ONLINE) and the UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. Navigation links include NEW SEARCH, BROWSE, MAP SEARCH, HELP, and TAGS. A 'SIGN IN' button is in the top right. The main heading reads 'DISCOVER THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD'S WORLD-CLASS LIBRARY RESOURCES'. Below this is a search bar with a 'Search Scope' dropdown set to 'Search Everything'. The search criteria are set to 'Any field contains'. A dropdown menu for 'Resource Type' is open, with 'Journals' highlighted in a red box. Other options include All items, Books, Articles, Images, Audio Visual, Databases, and Scores. A 'SIMPLE SEARCH' button is visible on the right. The background features a stylized map of the Bodleian library area with labels like 'BROAD STREET', 'Sheldonian Theatre', and 'Chapel'.

## SOLO status










-  See the **latest information on library opening times**
-  A wide range of digital services are available with **many more ebooks** to Keep the University Reading
-  Streamlined access to **online journals** directly from SOLO, from the **BrowZine website** or Chrome extension

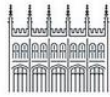
## Getting Help

If you have any questions or need help making the most of the extensive electronic resources still available to you then please:

-  use our Live Chat service (via the tab on the right of this page)
-  contact us via [reader.services@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:reader.services@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

## Useful links

-  [Bodleian Libraries Home Page](#)
-  [Subject & Research Guides](#)
-  [Find A Library](#)
-  [e-Journals A-Z | BrowZine](#)
-  [Databases A-Z](#)
-  [Special Collections Catalogues](#)
-  [Digital Bodleian](#)
-  [ORA \(Oxford University Research Archive\)](#)
-  [ORLO \(Oxford Reading Lists Online\)](#)



Bodleian Libraries  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

FIND JOURNAL BY TITLE, SUBJECT, OR ISSN

BROWSE SUBJECTS

Arts and Humanities

Biological Sciences

Biomedical and Health Sciences

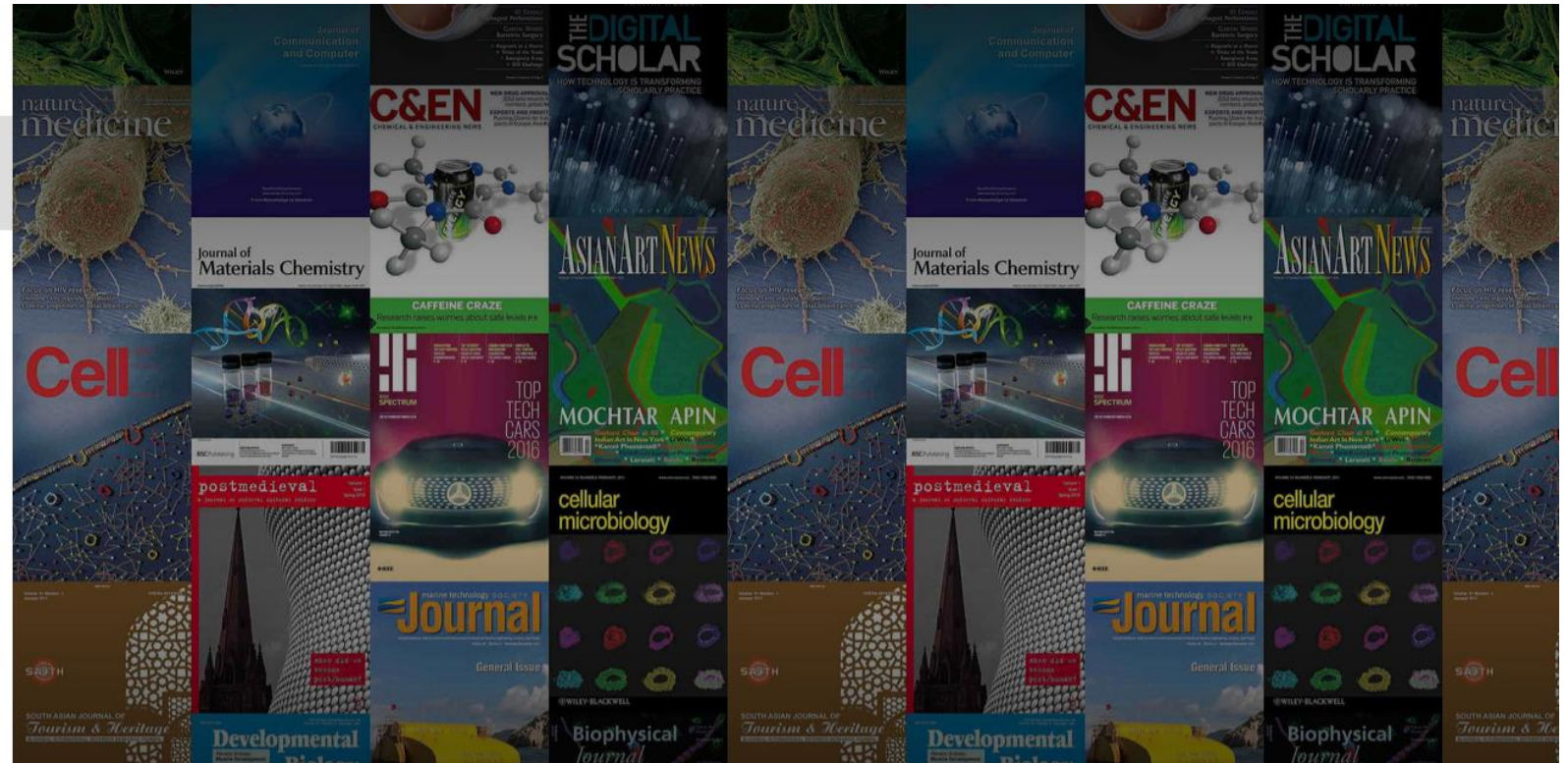
Business and Economics

Earth and Environmental Sciences

Engineering and Technology

History

Law and Legal Studies



# Browzine

# **Live Demo: Browzine & Hands-on activities**

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BOOKS (OFTEN  
CHAPTER LEVEL  
INDEXING)



JOURNALS



CONFERENCES



PATENTS



GREY  
LITERATURE

# Bibliographic databases

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# Content on databases

- Peer-reviewed
  - Selected before being added to the database
  - Indexed by subject specialists
  - Keywords assigned to each paper
-

# Databases features

1

Search for any topic, author or publication

2

Employ a wide range of advanced search tools

3

Offer plenty of options to filter, sort and analyse results

# Finding databases: SOLO Search

Search Scope: Search Everything ▼

Any field ▼ contains ▼ \_\_\_\_\_

AND ▼ Any field ▼ contains ▼ \_\_\_\_\_

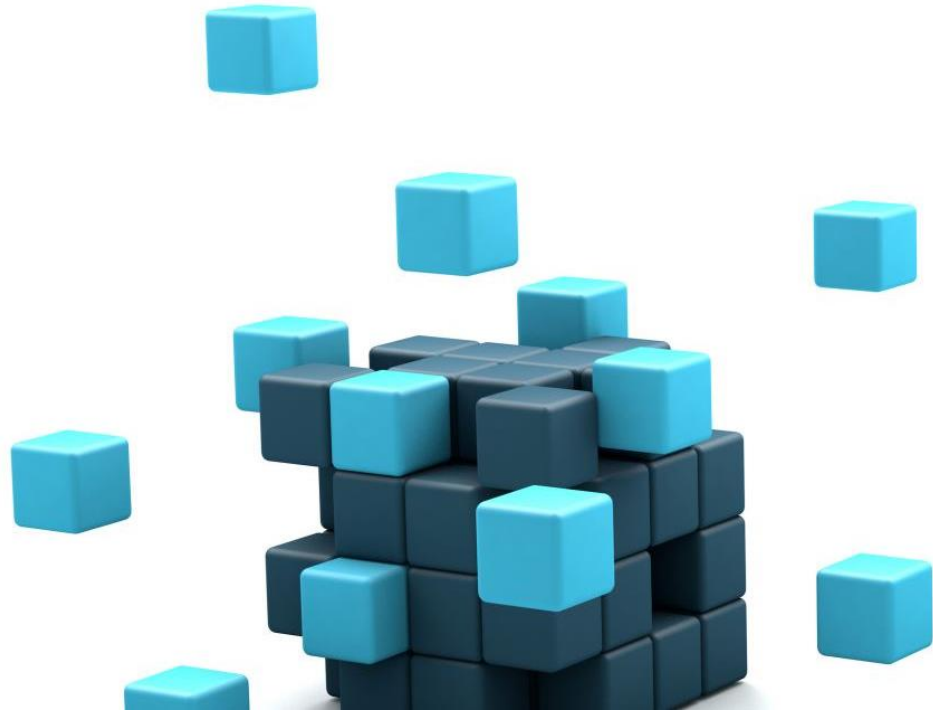
+ ADD A NEW LINE    ↻ CLEAR

Resource Type  
Databases ▼

Language  
Any language ▼

Publication Date  
Any year ▼

- You can search SOLO for a database by its name
- You can also use the Database limit in the Advanced Search on SOLO to restrict your results to just databases



# Live Demo: Databases A-Z

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# Planning a search

Research topic:

How accurate are fitness trackers for measuring exercise?

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# Breaking down a research topic in concepts

	<b>Concept 1</b>	<b>Concept 2</b>	<b>Concept 3</b>
Keywords	Accuracy	Fitness tracker	Exercise



# Activity with padlet – Add alternative terms -

<https://tinyurl.com/TopicKeyword>

	<b>Concept 1</b>	<b>Concept 2</b>	<b>Concept 3</b>
<b>Keywords</b>	Accuracy	Fitness tracker	Exercise

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# Wildcards and Phrases

## Truncation:

accura\* *for accuracy, accurate*

## Different spellings:

Characteri?ation

## Phrases:

"Fitness tracker"

Scopus

"..." for terms appearing together

{...} for exact phrase in Scopus (no stop words or hyphen)

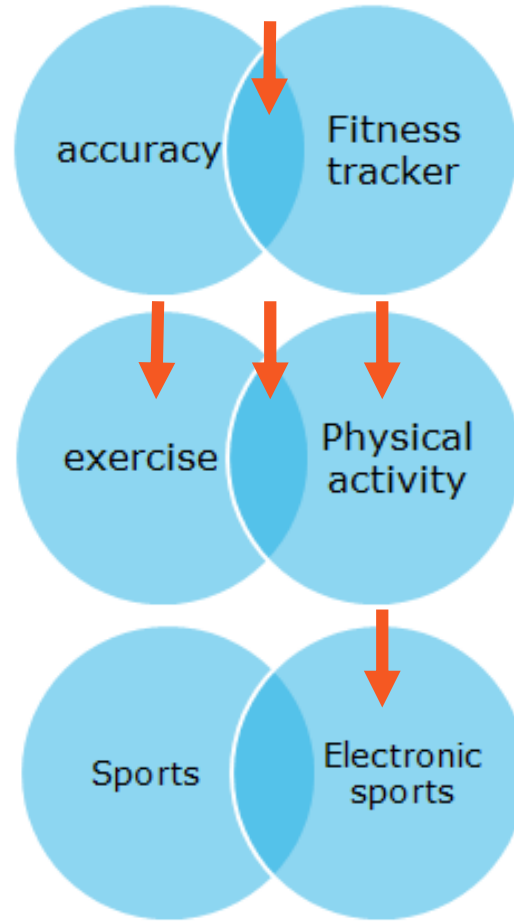
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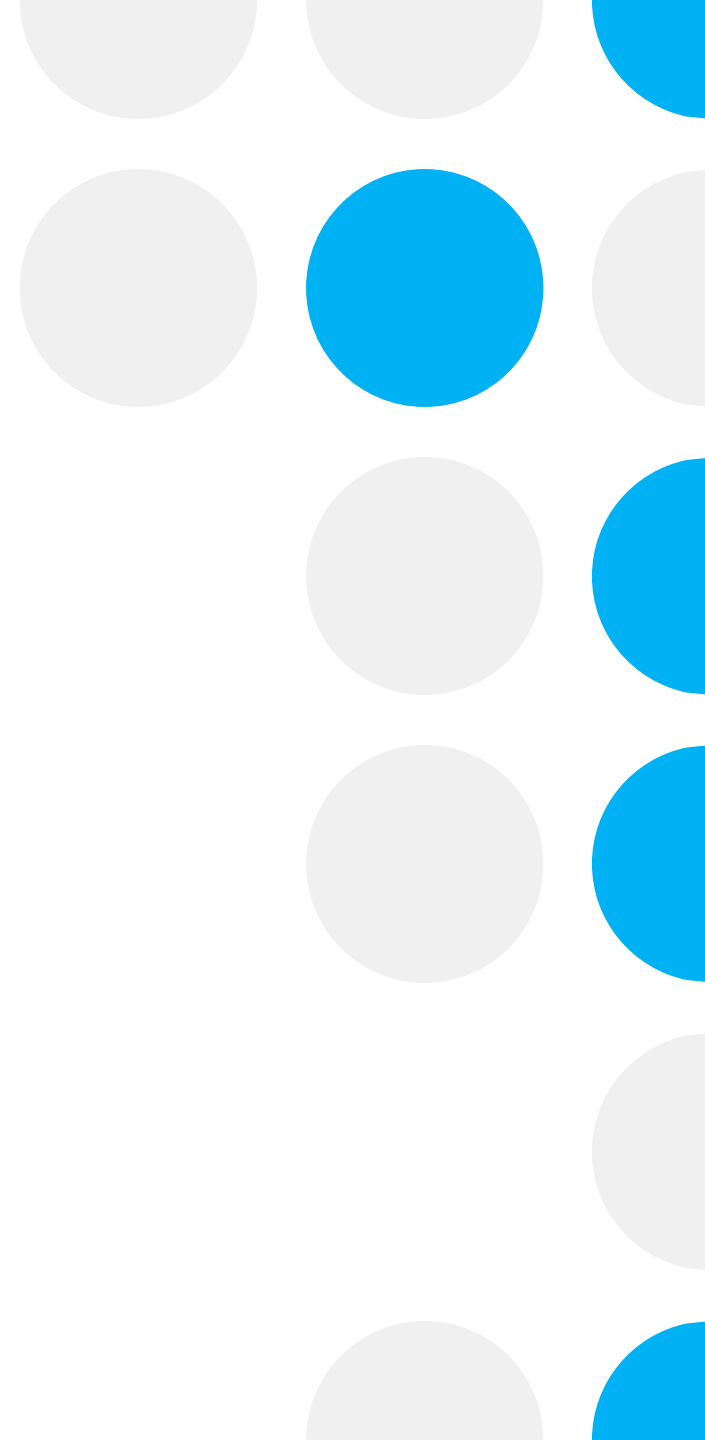
# Boolean commands

- **AND** – includes
- **OR** – broadens out
- **NOT** – excludes



# Boolean operators

- **OR: synonyms and keywords for the same concept:**
    - exercise **OR** "physical activity"
  - **AND: different concepts:**
    - ("fitness tracker" **OR** "wearable device")  
**AND**
    - (exercise **OR** "physical activity")
- 



# Activity with padlet – Add truncations, wildcards, connectors

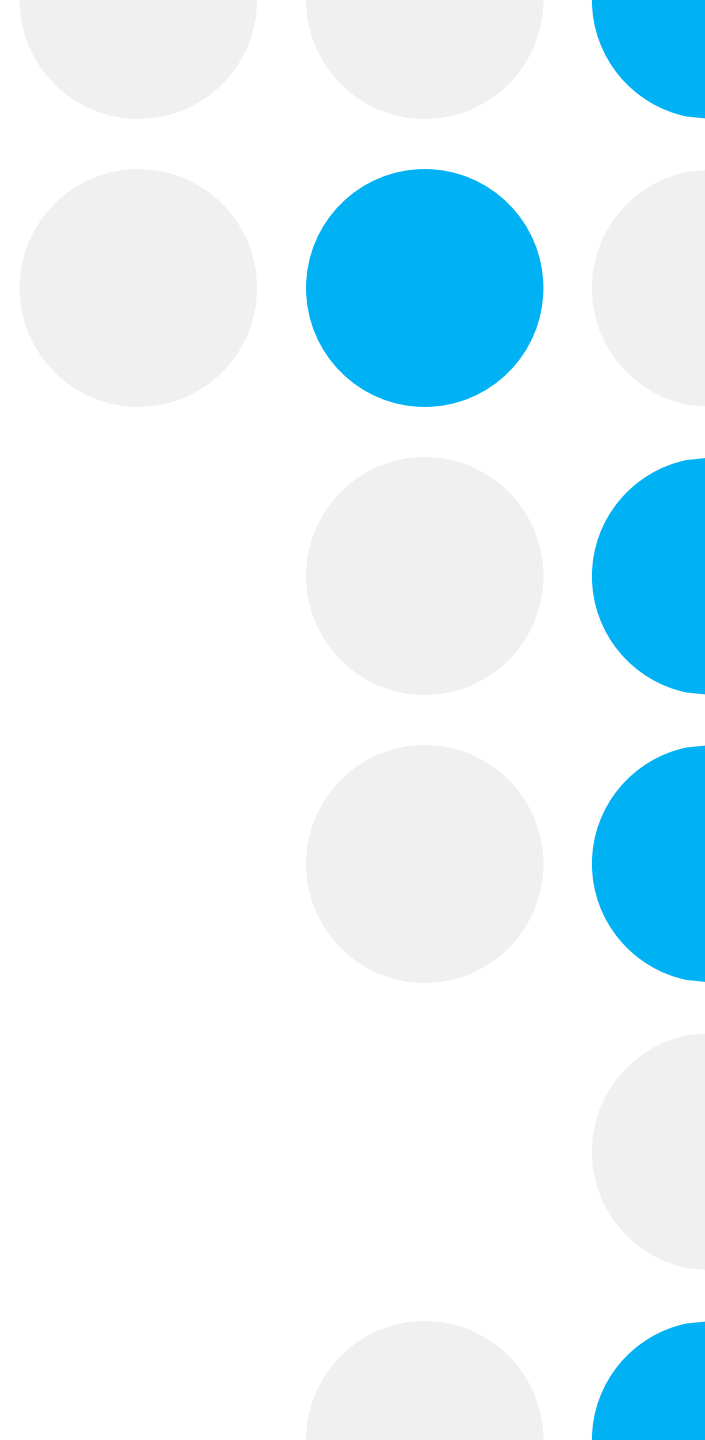
<https://tinyurl.com/TopicKeyword>

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# Live Demo: Searching databases

- Applying search strategies
  - Filtering results
  - Editing searches
  - Looking at citing and cited articles, suggested articles, author's and indexed keywords
  - Saving results and searches
- 



# Citation Counts

- Some databases count citations to papers.
  - You can use these citations to find papers which have cited a piece of research you are interested in.
  - Citations can also give you clues as to what might be widely read or particularly important papers in a field.
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# Google Scholar

Great when unsure  
about article details  
or journal  
abbreviations

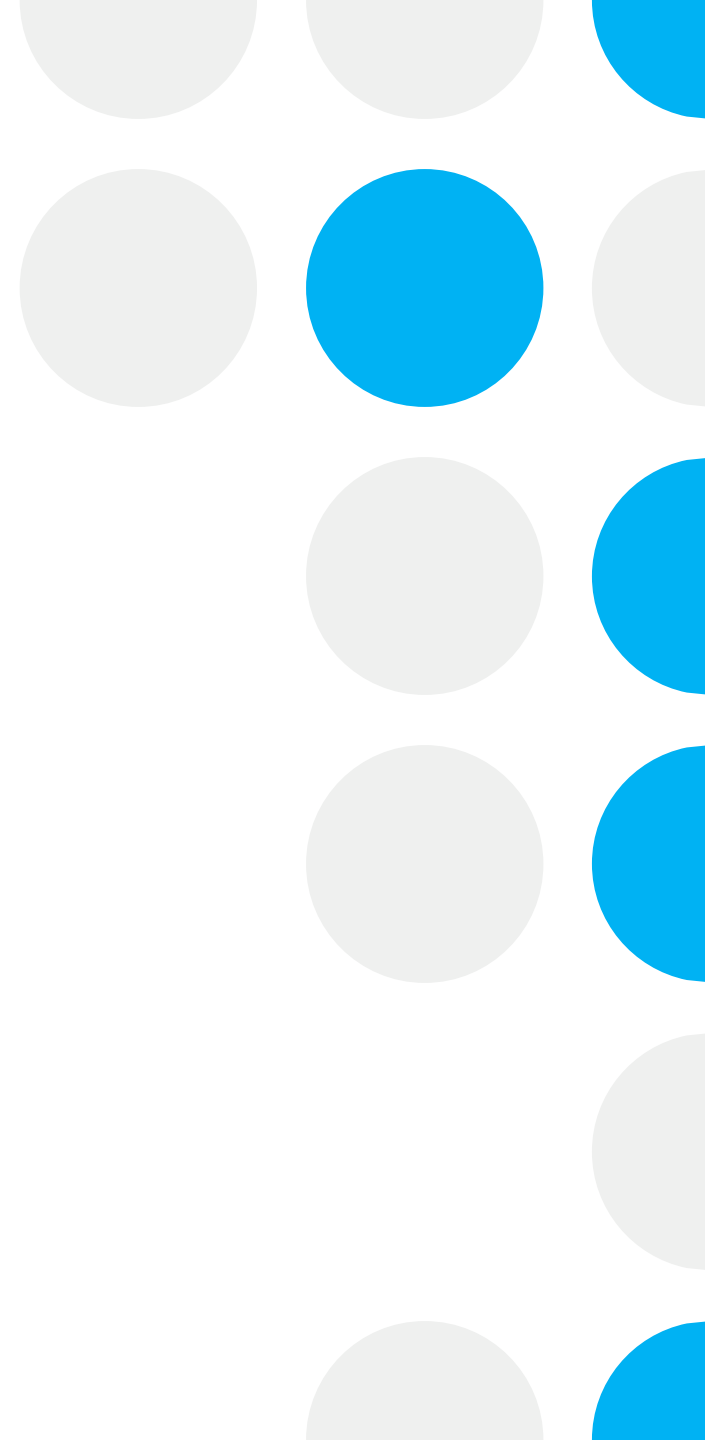
Find it @ Oxford  
link

Google Scholar  
Button

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# Live Demo: Google Scholar

- Setting up the Find it & Oxford link
  - Google Scholar Button
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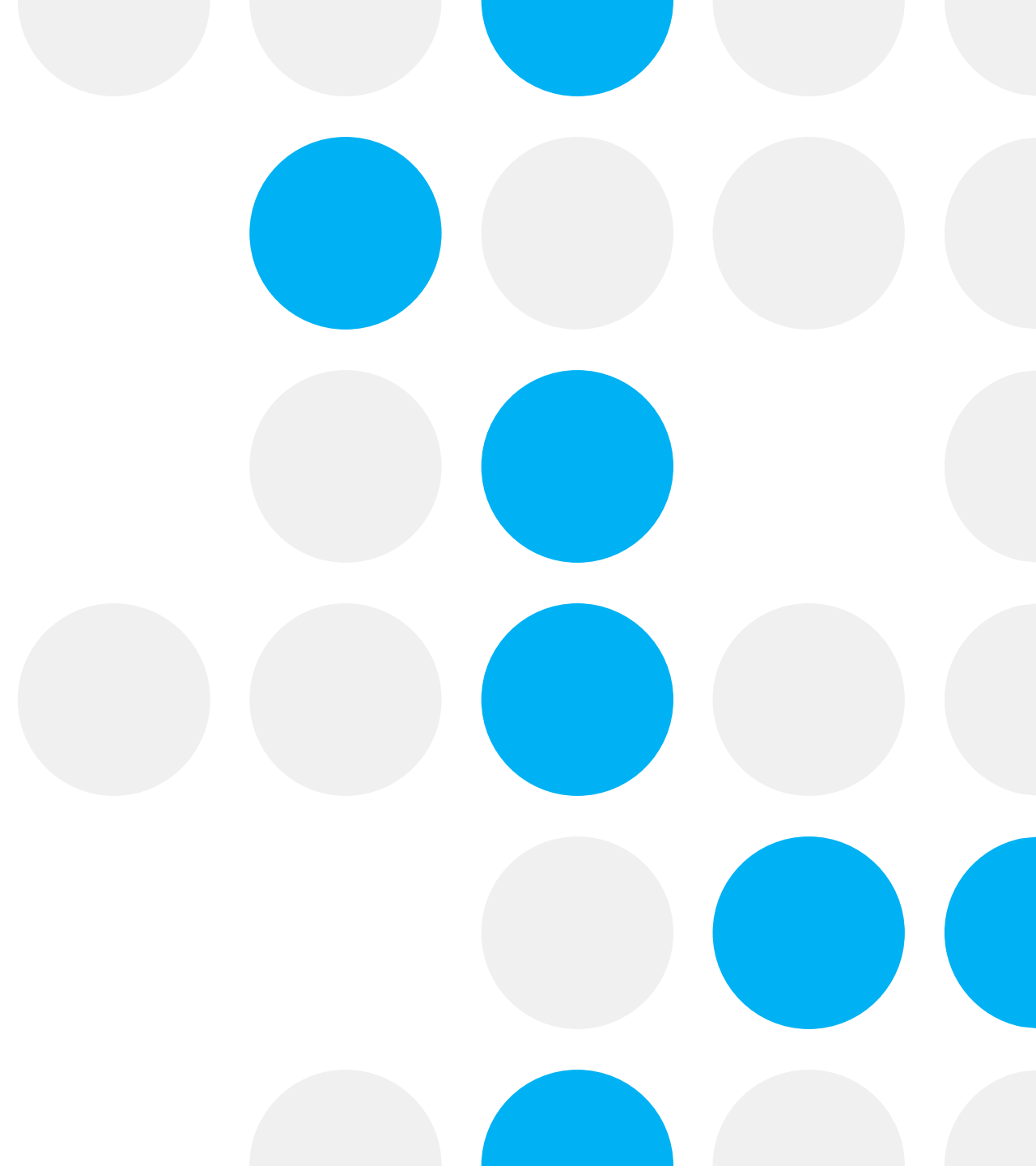


# Is there something we don't have in Oxford?

- If you can't access the electronic version :
  - Do we have the print version?
  - Open access version?
- Interlibrary loan

More information is available on the [Bodleian Interlibrary loan webpage](#)

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The background is a dense, overlapping collage of colorful sticky notes in shades of blue, green, yellow, pink, and purple. Each note features a large, bold black question mark. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text. On the right side, there are several white circles of varying sizes and one solid blue circle.

**Questions?**

**Let's check the Padlet**

# Thank you!

For any questions, please email your Subject Librarian:

<https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ask/subject-librarians>

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# Feedback survey

- It would be great to hear your feedback on this session!
- You can complete our online form here -  
<https://tinyurl.com/iSkillsSurvey2223>

