



## quick start guide

# Freely Accessible Resources on the Web



This cribsheet is intended to give you some ideas about freely-available resources on the internet, which you can access regardless of whether or not you are a University of Bolton student. Please note due to the nature of these sites, the content is liable to change and may contain advertisements.

### Books

#### *Google Books*

Google Books allows you to search and preview the content of millions of books. In some cases you can see the full text of the books but most of the books will only allow you a certain amount of content and charge you for further access. Access the website here:

<http://books.google.com/>

#### *Boon Books*

Boon Books offers free online textbooks particularly in the business studies area. Access the website here: <http://bookboon.com/en/textbooks>

### Journals

#### *Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)*

DOAJ is a multi-disciplinary resource which includes access to full-text, peer-reviewed open access journals and journal articles. Some examples are included below: AERA SIG communications of research, BioMed Central Open Access, Digital library of the Commons, HireWire Press free journals, Hindawi Publishing open access journals, Modernist journals project, Public Library of Science (PLoS), SPIE open access journals, and Symposium journals free content. Access the website here: <http://www.doaj.org/>.

#### *Pubmed Central or European Pubmed Central*

A unique, free, information resource for biomedical and health researchers. It contains 25 million+ abstracts and 2 million+ full text research articles. Access via the University of Bolton databases page (A-Z list) here: <http://libguides.bolton.ac.uk/az.php> or via a search engine.

#### *Public Library of Science (PLOS)*

PLOS contains over 140,000 open access peer-reviewed articles from scientific fields. Access the website here: <https://www.plos.org/>

### Repositories

*OAIster* contains records of digital resources from open-archive collections worldwide. It has more than 23 million records representing digital resources from more than 1,100 contributors. Access the website here: <https://www.oclc.org/en/oaister.html>

*DERA* is a digital archive of documents published electronically by government and related bodies in the area of education. There are already approximately 1000 full text documents available. Access the website here: <http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/>

## **Useful Websites**

### *Google Scholar*

Google Scholar provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many disciplines and sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites. Google Scholar helps you find relevant work across the world of scholarly research, if there is reference to it on the internet. Access the website here: <http://scholar.google.co.uk/>

### *LEAP Online*

LEAP Online is designed to make studying easier and more effective, by equipping you with the necessary academic and life skills to succeed on your course. By working your way systematically through the modules, you will improve your ability to study and produce high quality essays, assignments and dissertations. You will master basic skills, and then progress to the level required for a final year project. Access the website here: <http://www.bolton.ac.uk/leaponline/Home.aspx>

### *NICE (National Institute for Health & Care Excellence) Evidence Search*

NICE Evidence provides access to selected, quality health and social care evidence and best practice. NHS staff with an Athens account can also get free access to paid-for journals and databases. Access the website here: <https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/>

### *Open University*

The Open University offers various useful webpages. Discover how to search for, evaluate and manage information. Access the website here: <http://www.open.ac.uk/safari/>

*Open Research Online* is the Open University's repository of research publications and other research outputs. It is an open-access resource that can be searched and browsed freely by members of the public. Access the website here: <http://oro.open.ac.uk/>

## **Images**

### *Everystockphoto*

A search engine which allows you to search for photographs, made available freely under various licences. Access the website here: <http://www.everystockphoto.com/>

### *VADS*

The Visual Arts Data Service is a collection of visual arts images made available to the HE community. Access the website here: <https://vads.ac.uk/index.php>

## **Further help**

For further help or guidance, please speak to a member of Library staff, phone 01204 903232 or email [subjecthelp@bolton.ac.uk](mailto:subjecthelp@bolton.ac.uk) .