

Course News

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Please read this document carefully and retain for future reference.

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Noticeboard

Computer communication

Many aspects of academic life, particularly in the humanities, have been transformed by computers in recent years. The production of dictionaries, bibliographies and concordances, searching of remote library catalogues, links between distant people and research resources, the process of producing well-printed and well-organised dissertations have all been changed beyond recognition by information technology.

For information about suitable equipment, please refer to the *Personal Computing for OU Study* website at <http://www.open.ac.uk/personal-computing/> or contact the Open University's Computing Helpdesk (see below for details). We also recommend that you explore the online Computing Guide and *Using your PC for Study*. Both of these are available from the study support section of your OU home page (StudentHome), under 'Study Support ... Your Computer'.

If you would like to use some of the facilities described below but you don't own a computer, or you have a computer without internet access, perhaps you can use somebody else's networked computer to check what's available near you at public libraries, learning centres or internet cafés. There's a page of useful links called 'Using public access computers' which you can also find from the study support section of your OU home page (StudentHome), under 'Your computer'.

Electronic mail (e-mail) enables you to send messages to and receive messages from fellow students, possibly your tutor and the University. Computer forums allow you to link up with a group of computer-users (say, your tutor and fellow students) to discuss aspects of the course informally at a distance.

Online resources

You can access the course website by following the link on your Open University home page at <http://www.open.ac.uk/students>.

The course website links to a range of useful general material as well as resources from the OU Library. From the 'Library resources' page you will be able to access online collections by subject; the OU Library catalogue (which lets you search UK academic, public and national libraries as well as libraries worldwide); electronic journals and databases; and tutorials to help you to develop your information skills.

The internet

The internet can connect you to a worldwide network of computers so that you can use any of the services they offer. It is not only an exciting and rapidly growing source of information and advice, but it also allows you to do more mundane but useful jobs such as searching the library catalogues of most of the university libraries in the UK (invaluable if you want to know if it is worth travelling to get hold of a particular book or journal).

The OU Library

You may not be aware that the Open University Library offers an excellent selection of online resources, databases and journals which will enable you to do a thorough bibliographic search in preparation of your project or dissertation. It is

important that you find all relevant material for your topic, and there is no better way to do this than by checking out some of the databases that the Library provides.

To access the Library's full range of electronic resources directly, select the menu items 'databases' or 'eJournals' from the Library website's home page at <http://library.open.ac.uk/>. To access resources especially relevant to Classical Studies, choose the menu item called 'Your subject' and use the drop down menu to select 'Classical Studies' as your category. This will take you to a large number of invaluable resources which you should be familiar with. In order to find recent articles, for example, try 'Academic Search Complete' or 'The Arts and Humanities Citation Index'. Please note the 'help sheets' designed to guide you through the site.

You should also take note of 'Safari', a short online course with generic information about doing online searches and finding information. This tool is especially designed to help students access this kind of information. It can be found at <http://www.open.ac.uk/safari/>. You should use this in conjunction with 'Info-Rate', which helps develop your information skills (<http://www.open.ac.uk/info-rate/>).

In addition, the British Library online catalogue (<http://catalogue.bl.uk>) enables you to do a keyword search for books and is another good way of ensuring that you really have located the latest publications on your topic.

If you are unsure how to use the Library's resources, contact the Library Helpdesk on 01908 659001. You can also contact the Library via live webchat: click on the 'Get help' link available on any page of the Library website and select the webchat option.

The OU Computing Helpdesk

The OU Computing Helpdesk is available to help OU students and Associate Lecturers install and configure course software. It also offers support and assistance with other OU-provided IT services and applications, including online forum systems, problems with usernames or passwords, and access to course websites and other online facilities.

How to contact the OU Computing Helpdesk

Telephone: 44 (0) 1908 653972.

During busy periods your telephone call may be placed in a queue. This does not mean that the staff are not there, just that they are busy with other calls. Please be patient and persistent!

Online: You can find out more about the Computing Helpdesk and how to contact them by following the 'Computing Helpdesk' link at the left of any page of the online Computing Guide (<http://www.open.ac.uk/computingguide/>). Details of opening hours are also available on this site. When contacting the Helpdesk, please supply your student number (Personal Identifier) and course code, together with the full and exact text of any error messages that your computer/software has given, if applicable.

If your query relates to a username or password problem, please include the word 'password' in the subject field of your email message.

If you are unable to connect to any of the Open University's online services, it may be possible to access information on the status of the university's IT services via <http://services.open.ac.uk/>.

The MA in Classical Studies course website

The MA in Classical Studies course website contains links to internet resources which may be of use to Classical Studies MA students. You can access your course website by following the link on your student home page at:

<http://www.open.ac.uk/students>

As well as providing general research resources (including ROUTES organised by the OU Library), your course website includes links to a range of useful resources. The following lists give some idea of the structure of the website and the links to internet resources.

Home page

- 1) General resources
- 2) Bibliographic resources
- 3) Journals
- 4) Set book
- 5) Archaeological links
- 6) Ancient text links
- 7) Internet search tools

1) General resources

Abbreviations for classical authors and works

Diotima (on women and gender)

Electronic Resources for Classicists (a large collection of links)

Greek Mythology Link

Oxford University Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents

Perseus Project (interactive encyclopaedia of ancient Greece)

The Bouleuterion: Birthplace of Democracy (ancient democracy)

Voice of the Shuttle: Classical Studies Page (links to Classical Studies web pages)

Database of modern examples of performances of Greek Drama

2) Bibliographic resources

Abbreviations for classical authors and works

Gnomon (bibliography of resources relating to the classical world)

The AMPHORAS Project (bibliography for ancient amphoras)

TOCS-IN (tables of contents of journals of interest to classicists)

Barbarian bibliography

3) Journals

ANTIQUITY (quarterly journal of archaeological research)

Bryn Mawr Classical Review (reviews of Classical Studies books)

Classics Ireland, University College Dublin (journal of the Classical Association of Ireland)

Didaskalia

HISTOS (electronic journal of ancient historiography at the University of Durham)

Internet Archaeology

Journal of Field Archaeology

Journal of Roman Archaeology

Journal of Roman Military Equipment

Libyan Studies

TOCS-IN

American Journal of Philology

Arethusa 1996 –

Classical Bulletin

The Classical Review

Journal of Hellenic Studies

4) Set book

Archaeology: An Introduction (an electronic companion with many links)

5) Archaeological links

The AMPHORAS Project

The Beazley Archive (archive of images of Greek and related figured pottery)

Ostia – topographical dictionary

Perseus Project

The Council for British Archaeology

Archaeological Resource Guide for Europe (comprehensive database of web sites for European archaeology)

6) Textual resources

A Glossary of Rhetorical Terms with Examples

Alex (catalogue of electronic texts from all periods)

Athena (electronic texts sorted by author's name, including some classical texts)

Carrie (electronic library with a selection of Latin texts)

Electronic Text Center (includes literature in translation and Latin language texts)

Project Gutenberg (UK mirror of a large, all-period electronic text project)

The Internet Classics Archive (mainly Graeco-Roman works of classical literature, all in English translation)

Perseus Project (includes texts in Greek and in translation)

The Tacitus Home Page

7) General search engines:

YAHOO

Altavista

Excite

Go.com

WebCrawler

Lycos

LookSmart

Ask.com

Google