PGR Supervisors Library checklist

This checklist highlights Library advice, information and resources designed to support supervisors of students registered for a research degree at The Open University. It is important to note that some services listed may still be affected by Covid-19 restrictions. Please check the links below for further information and updates regarding service availability.

☐ Discover key services for researchers
Familiarise yourself with the services available to your student(s) by visiting the Services for You page on the Library website.
https://www.open.ac.uk/library/services/researchers

☐ Find out more about permissions needed to include third-party copyright materials in a research degree thesis
The process of seeking permission to use copyrighted content should be considered by your student(s) as early as possible. Recommend our Copyright and your Thesis podcast https://youtu.be/hs1V15WhD3A and guide https://learn2.open.ac.uk/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=140803 (OU login required) to your student(s), where we provide details of how, when, and why to seek permission to include third-party copyrighted material in a thesis, as well as what to do if your student is pursuing a PhD by published works.

☐ Read our plagiarism guidance for Postgraduate Researchers
There are additional complexities regarding referencing and plagiarism that PGRs may face. This plagiarism guide (OU login required) was designed with them in mind. Why not take a look for yourself and encourage your student(s) to work through this guide to test their understanding?
https://learn1.open.ac.uk/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=21465

☐ Ask your student(s) to look out for training workshops offered by the Library and Library Research Support Team
The Library offers a number of training sessions that run periodically and cover topics such as "Reference management tools - an Introduction" and "Smarter searching with library databases". The Research Support Team offers a range of training across different areas designed to support Postgraduate Researchers. Talk to your student(s) about the training sessions we offer and encourage them to sign up.
https://www.open.ac.uk/library/training-and-events
https://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/research-support-team/training

☐ Help your student(s) learn about tools that will help them to manage their references
See the Bibliographic management page on the Library website.

Visiting the Library building

☐ Planning your visit to the Library and Covid-19 safety measures
After a period of closure due to Covid-19, Library Services has announced the reopening of the Library building for Open University staff and postgraduate researchers, for access to study spaces and print materials, on weekdays from Monday 6th September 2021. Access to the building will be by OU security pass (swipe card) only.

Library staff will be located on the ground floor to welcome customers and assist with library-related enquiries between 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday. Print books on the first-floor shelves and print journals on the second-floor shelves will be available for access. If you want to access something specific, please check Library Search (found on the home page of the Library website) first as some of our collections are in restricted areas. Currently there is no access to AV materials.

You can find the Library reopening news story on the Library intranet site https://openuniv.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet-library/Pages/Library-building-reopening.aspx and updates to services can be found on the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) notice of service availability page https://www.open.ac.uk/library/node/98698
Further steps

☐ Find out about our Document Delivery and Inter-library Loan services
You and your student(s) can use the Document Delivery and Inter-library loan services to get items that the Library doesn't have in stock. https://www.open.ac.uk/library/services/document-delivery-and-inter-library-lending

☐ Help your student(s) to learn about data management plans (DMP) and encourage them to write their own
See the Research Data Management webpages to learn what a data management plan (DMP) is, learn what research funders expect from a DMP and find guidance on writing a DMP. You can also contact us to request that we review a draft DMP for you. http://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/research-data-management/data-management-plans

☐ Find out about Open Access publishing
Open Access aims to make the research process more transparent and published outputs from research accessible to all. Making research outputs Open Access can increase their readership and impact. http://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/open-access-publishing
Research funders increasingly require research data and published outputs to be made Open Access. If your student(s) research degree is funded, please ask them to check our list of funder requirements. http://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/open-access-publishing/open-access-policies

☐ Find out about ORO (Open Research Online)
ORO http://oro.open.ac.uk/ is The Open University’s open access repository of research publications. It contains records of research outputs published by OU staff and postgraduate research students and theses of former research students. The University Code of Practice for Research states that all applicable research publications should be deposited on ORO. ORO disseminates the outcomes from our research, helping to facilitate its impact, influence on policy and practice and ability to change lives for the better. Your student(s) will be required to upload their thesis to ORO upon completion. This copy of their work will be openly available, unless an embargo is agreed at the start of their studies, and a DataCite digital object identifier (DOI) will be created which provides a permanent, citable web link. Work with your student(s) to familiarise them with ORO and discuss the potential benefits open sharing can bring.

☐ Discuss adding your student’s data to ORDO (Open Research Data Online) upon project completion
ORDO https://ordo.open.ac.uk/ is The Open University’s research data repository, where Open University researchers can upload their data for long-term preservation and, where appropriate, sharing e.g., at the end of a project or supporting a publication. Data stored in ORDO will be kept for a minimum of ten years after project completion. Published data will be given a DataCite digital object identifier (DOI), providing a permanent, citable web link. Encouraging your student(s) to upload their data here at the end of their research project will help to preserve the data long-term and allow other researchers to potentially benefit from their work.

Keep in touch
Email
library-research-support@open.ac.uk

Website
http://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/

Blog
http://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/the_orb/

Twitter
@OU_Library