This checklist highlights Library advice, information and resources designed to help you succeed as a postgraduate researcher at The Open University.

Welcome

☐ Attend Library session as part of your University induction
The library’s training sessions will introduce you to the OU library, show you how to use online resources effectively and help with finding resources [http://www.open.ac.uk/library/help-and-support/training-and-skills](http://www.open.ac.uk/library/help-and-support/training-and-skills)

☐ Look out for emails about training workshops offered by Library Research Support Team and sign up

☐ Visit the Library website to explore library resources
The Library website [http://www.open.ac.uk/library/](http://www.open.ac.uk/library/) is your gateway to the extensive library content provided by The Open University. Use the Library Search box to start searching for resources such as ebooks, databases, journals or journal articles. Alternatively, use the Library Resources tab to browse for resources. Most of our content is available online.

☐ Discover key services for researchers
Via the Services for you > Researchers page of the Library Services website [http://www.open.ac.uk/library/services/researchers](http://www.open.ac.uk/library/services/researchers)

Further steps

☐ Set up Google Scholar to link to full text resources provided by Library Services
Read the instructions at [http://www.open.ac.uk/library/help-and-support/access-eresources-using-google-scholar](http://www.open.ac.uk/library/help-and-support/access-eresources-using-google-scholar)

☐ Find out about the SCONUL Access scheme if you would like to use other libraries near you

☐ Find out about our Document Delivery and Inter-library Loan services
You can use these to get items that the Library doesn’t have in stock [http://www.open.ac.uk/library/services/document-delivery](http://www.open.ac.uk/library/services/document-delivery)

☐ Learn about tools that will help you manage your references
Write a data management plan
Formulate how you'll store and manage your research data throughout your project [http://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/research-data-management/data-management-plans](http://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/research-data-management/data-management-plans). Research data is the evidence on which researchers build their analytic or other work, collected, observed or created for the purposes of analysis to produce and validate original research results. Examples are: images, video and audio; survey results and interview transcripts; experimental observations; text corpuses; notebooks and lab books; models and software.

Read about the potential benefits of sharing your research data

Find out about OU requirements regarding your thesis
We recommend you think about securing permission for any third party copyrighted material early on [http://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/open-access-publishing/etheses](http://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/open-access-publishing/etheses). Follow this activity to learn about different forms of plagiarism and how to avoid them during the production of your thesis [https://learn1.open.ac.uk/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=21465](https://learn1.open.ac.uk/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=21465) (OU login required).

Find out about Open Access publishing
Open Access aims to make the research process more transparent and the data and published outputs from research accessible to all. Making research outputs Open Access can increase their readership and impact. Research funders increasingly require research data and published outputs from to be made Open Access – if your PhD is funded please check funder requirements at [http://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/open-access-publishing](http://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/open-access-publishing)

Familiarise yourself with ORO (Open Research Online)
ORO is The Open University’s open access repository [http://oro.open.ac.uk/](http://oro.open.ac.uk/). It will contain details of research outputs published by members of your department and theses of former research students. It is expected that your thesis (if applicable) will be deposited in ORO

Investigate tools that help you find Open Access versions of research publications
Such as [https://openaccessbutton.org/](https://openaccessbutton.org/) and [https://unpaywall.org/](https://unpaywall.org/)

Set up ORCID
ORCID is a unique digital identifier that helps ensure you get credit for your published work [http://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/researcher-visibility/orcid](http://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/researcher-visibility/orcid)

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