

Postgraduate researcher (PGR) Library checklist

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

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/> 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 postgraduate researchers

Via the Services for you > Postgraduate researchers page of the Library Services website <http://www.open.ac.uk/library/services/researchers>

Activate your library card

You need to do this before you can borrow physical books etc. from the Library building. Go to <http://www.open.ac.uk/libraryservices/webservices/librarycard/staffstudent/staffstudent> and enter the 10-digit barcode number from the back of your OU ID card

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>

Use our print research methods and academic writing books

Covering a wide variety of topics, they are on the second floor of the Library building (near The Park) and are available on a reference basis (i.e. they cannot be taken out of the library) in order to maximise the number of people who can use them

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

<http://www.open.ac.uk/library/help-and-support/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>

Learn about tools that will help you manage your references

See the Bibliographic management page <http://www.open.ac.uk/library/help-and-support/bibliographic-management>

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>. Research data is the evidence on which researchers build their work: collected, observed or created for the purposes of analysis to produce and validate original research results. Examples include images, video, audio, survey results, interview transcripts, experimental observations, text corpuses and software

Read about the potential benefits of sharing your research data

<http://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/research-data-management/why-share-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>. 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> (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 <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 PhD is funded please check funder requirements at www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/open-access-publishing/open-access-policies

Familiarise yourself with ORO (Open Research Online)

ORO is The Open University's open access repository <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

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>

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