Where do I start – Keeping up-to-date with research

What are alerts?
Current awareness or alerting services keep you up-to-date with the latest research. They send you regular automatic updates or alerts when new information about your topic is available. The following is a selection of different alerts.

Database alerts
You can save your search strategy and re-run the search in future to find new references that have been added to the database. For help with searching databases, see the separate guide: ‘Where do I start? - Finding journal articles.’

- Some databases (e.g. ProQuest, Medline, Embase and Inspec) will automatically run the search and send you the results as an email alert.
  - For example, create a My Research account and carry out a search on the ProQuest SciTech group of databases and then click on the ‘Save search/alert’ link at the top of the screen. Choose Create Alert.
  - Fill in the form to set up the alert.
  - To manage your alerts you need to have My Research account. You can also create alerts without an account, but you won’t be able to modify them.
  - This screenshot shows an alert set up for (mnr or measles mumps rubella) and vaccin* on the ProQuest SciTech Premium Collection of databases.

- The Web of Science Core Collection database lets you set up citation alerts, so you will receive an email when articles you select are cited.

- The British Library ‘Zetoc Alert’ service [http://zetoc.mimas.ac.uk/alertguide.html](http://zetoc.mimas.ac.uk/alertguide.html) emails you
  - Tables of contents for journals
  - Alerts for specific keywords or authors

- Click on the Zetoc Alert button and choose your home organisation from the Universities drop down menu. Click on the Go button. Login using your DS username and password.
- Enter your e-mail address and give the list a name. Click on the Create button.

Journal alerts

- As well as Zetoc, you can also use journal publishers’ own tables of contents or search alerts.
The Elsevier ScienceDirect [http://www.sciencedirect.com/] alerting service is one of the most significant of these, providing links to a range of such services, some of which are subject-specific.

- Login with your DS username and password and select the link to your name and choose Manage Alerts to view your alerts. Carry out a search using the expert search and choose the [Save search alert link]

- JournalTocs [http://www.journaltocs.ac.uk/] is a journal table of contents service covering multiple publishers and most subjects.

How can I communicate with other researchers?

**Blogs**

Blogs are regularly updated webpages often written in a personal diary style. Use them to find out about the latest research taking place in your field and to communicate and collaborate with other researchers. Search or browse for blogs or individual postings using a blog search such as: [http://www.blogsearchengine.org/]

**Networking sites**

There are many general and subject specific networking sites, for example:

- LinkedIn - [https://www.linkedin.com] is a business and professional networking site where you build a profile and connect with people in your chosen field. You can follow people, companies or topics and see these postings in your feed and set up or join a groups to expand your professional network.
- MyRSC - [http://my.rsc.org/home] is an ‘online community for anyone with an interest in the chemical sciences’.

**Email discussion lists and newsgroups**

Email discussion or mailing lists help you to keep up-to-date with developments in your field and to communicate and collaborate with other researchers. When you join a list in your subject area, you will be emailed all the postings to that list.

- JISCmail – [http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/] - is the UK’s national academic mailing list service and covers a wide variety of subjects. Select Groups then Category (e.g. Maths & Statistics) and click on ‘Go’. Click on the name of the relevant list and then on Subscribe or Unsubscribe.
- Google Groups – [https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!overview/]- read and participate in discussions using email and the web.

**Researcher profiles**

Identify the key researchers in your field.

- ORCID ID – [http://orcid.org] - register for your unique research identifier. All research staff at Strathclyde will receive one automatically – see your profile on PURE.
- ResearcherID.com – [http://www.researcherid.com/] - search the registry to see profiles of researchers. Each researcher has a unique Researcher ID number.
- Scopus Author Identifier – each author in the Scopus database is assigned a unique number.

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