Where do I start? – Finding information for my research project in Science

How do I find journal articles and conference papers?

Use databases to search for articles
Databases are the main tool for finding journal articles and conference papers on a particular topic, and most databases contain details of both. Some databases, however, specialise in a particular type of publication - for example, the Conference Proceedings Citation Index from the Web of Science service contains conference papers. For help with searching databases, see the separate guide: ‘Where do I start? - Finding journal articles.’

How do I find theses?
Finding Strathclyde theses
The Library has copies of theses submitted for higher research degrees of the University of Strathclyde. One copy of each thesis is reference only, but any second copy can be borrowed for six weeks. Newer theses are also available electronically.

- Use SUPrimo [http://suprimo.lib.strath.ac.uk](http://suprimo.lib.strath.ac.uk) and if you know the title type it in the ‘Search’ box.
- If you are looking for theses from a particular department type, for example, chemistry in the ‘Search’ box.
- Then choose more options from the Refine my results Collection option on the left-hand side of the screen and check the include box to find theses from the Pure & Applied Chemistry department.
- From the search results screen, use the drop down menu to sort your results by date-newest.
- Print copies of theses are kept in a closed area of the Library, and can be requested by choosing the Get It option and signing in to SUPrimo.

Finding non-Strathclyde theses
As is the case for journal articles and conference papers, databases are the main tool for finding theses on a particular topic.

- ProQuest Dissertations and Theses A & I gives a comprehensive listing of theses with abstracts, and some full text, from around the world since 1743. Access this database through searching by title on SUPrimo or from the lists of databases at [http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/eresources/databases](http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/eresources/databases)
- UK PhD theses can be downloaded from the EThOS service at: [http://ethos.bl.uk](http://ethos.bl.uk)

International and masters theses can be ordered from the inter-library service: [http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/usingthelibrary/usinglibraryservices/ils](http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/usingthelibrary/usinglibraryservices/ils)

Finding electronic theses
It is worth searching the websites of universities and/or the ‘Registry of Open Access Repositories’ at: [http://roar.eprints.org](http://roar.eprints.org) or OAIster at: [http://oaister.worldcat.org](http://oaister.worldcat.org) for e-theses.
For example, theses from the University of Edinburgh can be found in the ‘Edinburgh Research Archive’ at: https://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/

A number of projects and services have made e-Theses available. For example:
- ETHOS – UK Electronic Theses Online Service at: http://ethos.bl.uk/ Some theses are available for immediate download and the majority of theses can be digitised for free.
- The Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations at: http://www.ndltd.org/ Choose either ‘Global ETD Search’ or ‘Theses Resources’ then Find ETDs for specific countries or regions.
- PQDT Open – mainly US open access theses at: http://pqdtopen.proquest.com/search.html
- DART-Europe e-Theses Portal at: http://www.dart-europe.eu/basic-search.php

How do I find patents?

What are patents?
A patent is an agreement between an inventor and the state. The inventor is granted a monopoly of the invention for a specific time period in return for a full description which is published. Patents are useful sources of technical information about products and processes.

Hardcopy patents
The University Library doesn’t keep any hardcopy patents. The Mitchell Library in Glasgow has a large collection of up-to-date UK, European, US and World patents.

Patent databases
There are also free databases that you can search for bibliographic details and full-text of patents:

- esp@cenet databases from the European Patent Office at: http://worldwide.espacenet.com/ Coverage depends on the country. The Worldwide database is the default. Use the Smart Search or the Advanced Search and then ‘Publication Number’ if you know the patent number (e.g. WO2006059128).

How do I find eprints?

Eprint archives/repositories are collections of digital documents. They can include both pre-prints (un-refereed papers) and post-prints (refereed papers).

- Strathprints: The University of Strathclyde Institutional Repository at: http://strathprints.strath.ac.uk/
- The Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR) at: http://roar.eprints.org/ is a good starting point for eprints.
- The Directory of Open Access Repositories (DOAR) at: http://www.opendoar.org/ lets you search repositories and repository content.
- OAIster at: http://oaister.worldcat.org/ lets you search a catalogue of digital resources including eprints and e-theses.
- Open Grey at: http://www.opengrey.eu/ gives access grey literature references such as research and technical reports and doctoral dissertations.

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