

# Geography

Learn how to best use the library and its print and online resources for your geography modules.

## 1. Library support for Geography students



Your Academic Liaison Librarian for Geography is Charlie Brampton. You can contact Charlie at any point in your course if you would like help with finding the books you need, searching for sources, using online resources or referencing. She's based in the Headington Library and her contact details are at the end of this guide.

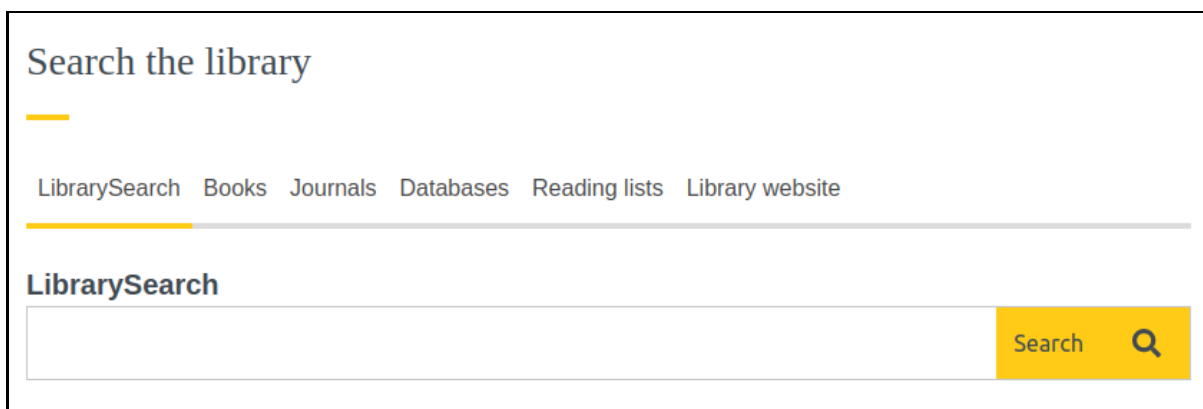
The Library course resource page for Geography has links to important online resources, help with referencing and information about how the library can help with your assignments: <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/geography>

## 2. Searching the Library's collections

The library website is at <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library> and this is always the best place to start when looking for resources for your modules and assignments.

Use the *Search the library* box to start searching for printed and online library resources. Just select the tab that best describes what you're searching for, type your search words in the search box and click *search*.

The LibrarySearch tab allows you to search across books, ebooks and journal articles in one place.

A screenshot of the library search interface. At the top, it says "Search the library" in blue. Below that, there are several tabs: "LibrarySearch", "Books", "Journals", "Databases", "Reading lists", and "Library website". The "LibrarySearch" tab is highlighted with a yellow underline. Below the tabs is a search box with the text "LibrarySearch" above it. To the right of the search box is a yellow button with the word "Search" and a magnifying glass icon.

## 3. Reading Lists

Every module has an online reading list. These lists include direct links to many of the recommended resources. Using your online reading lists is the quickest way to get hold of the sources your module leaders recommend. You can see the reading list down the right side of a module's Moodle page, or you can use the *Reading lists* tab in the *Search the Library* box to look up the module number or name.

#### 4. Finding books and ebooks

Use the *Books* search tab in the library search box to search for books held in any of Oxford Brookes' four libraries. The results screen will tell you if a book is available and give you the call number (where the book is shelved). You can click on the book title, and click *place hold* to request items which are on loan or held at another Oxford Brookes library.

Ebooks will also be shown in the search results. You will need to log in with your Brookes student number and password when prompted. Our ebooks are on various different platforms so options for viewing and downloading will vary. Just ask us if you need any help with ebooks.

#### 5. Useful call numbers

You will find books and other material of interest and relevance to your study of geography in many different areas throughout Headington library. Books are shelved next to books on the same or similar topics. To get started, here are some useful call numbers for geography:

304.2	Human geography
320 - 329	Politics
333.71	Environmental impact assessment
333.72	Conservation, land use
338.4791	Tourism - environmental aspects
363.7	Pollution, environmental aspects
550	Earth Sciences, including Geology
551.4	Geomorphology
551.46	Oceanography
551.5	Meteorology
574.5	Ecology: biology
614.7	Environment - public health
631.4	Soil Science
711 - 719	Planning
910	Human geography
911	Historical geography
914 - 9	Regional geography

If you need help finding these numbers on the shelves in the library, you can download a map or take a virtual tour at <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/access-and-accessibility/locations-and-opening-hours/headington-library>.

#### 6. Starting research: reference works

The library offers a wide range of reference works such as specialised dictionaries and encyclopaedias, which can be a useful starting point for your research. They may be helpful for getting an overview of a subject, looking up unfamiliar terms, or finding details about a specific concept.

Oxford Reference Online contains a wide range of dictionaries and reference materials and you can quickly search across all these books for a particular word or concept.  
<http://www.oxfordreference.com.oxfordbrookes.idm.oclc.org/>

## 7. Journals and journal articles

Journals provide one of the best sources of information on current research and discussion. The library subscribes to a wide range of journals in geography and other related subjects. Have a look at <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/geography?acc=faq-1#faq-1-link> to find out more about why journals are so useful in geography.

Almost all of the journals we subscribe to are available in an online format. You can either browse a journal to see what articles have been published in it or, if you have a reference to an article, you can jump straight to that article.

Remember, when you look at a reference to a journal article, there will be two titles in the reference. Look at this example:

Manzo, K. (2012) 'Visualising modernity: development hopes and the 2010 FIFA World Cup', *Soccer and Society* 13(2), pp.173-187

The first title, 'Visualising modernity: development hopes and the 2010 FIFA World Cup' is the title of the article. The second title, 'Soccer and Society' is the title of the journal the article was published in.

To find a journal article, the easiest option is to just type or paste the title of the article into the LibrarySearch tab of the *Search the library* box. Don't search for the whole reference.

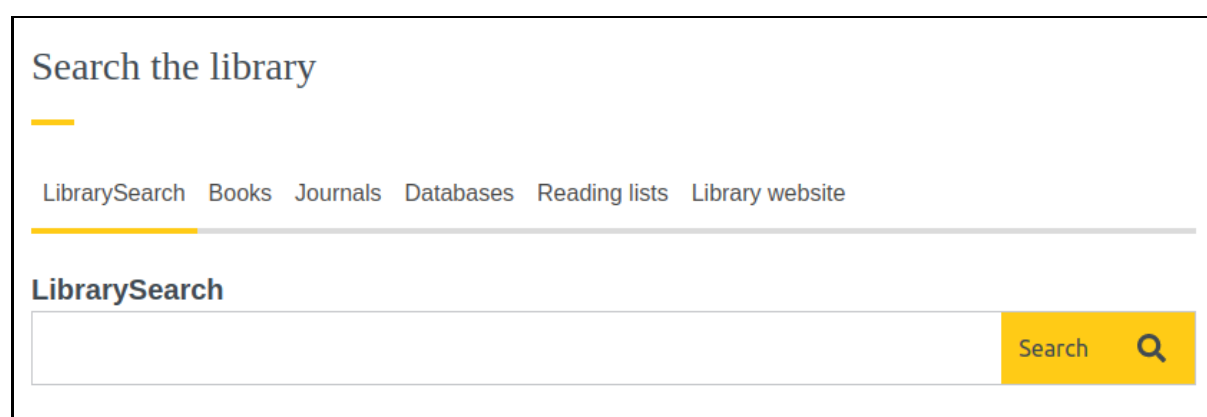
If you don't have a particular article in mind but just want to browse through a journal, copy or paste its title into the *Journals* tab of the *Search the library* box

Once in a journal you can:

- Look for a list of volume numbers or a 'browse' option in order to navigate to a particular article.
- Look at the most recent issue to see what current research is being published.
- Search for keywords or topics, in order to find other relevant articles.

## 8. Researching a topic

A good way to start is to search for your topic in LibrarySearch:



The screenshot shows the 'Search the library' interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'LibrarySearch', 'Books', 'Journals', 'Databases', 'Reading lists', and 'Library website'. The 'LibrarySearch' tab is selected and highlighted with a yellow underline. Below the navigation bar is a large search input field with the text 'LibrarySearch' above it. To the right of the input field is a yellow button with the text 'Search' and a magnifying glass icon.

If you want to go further, you should use one of our databases. Databases are tools that allow you to research a topic and find good-quality academic materials written about it. Some suggestions are listed below and they can all be accessed from the *databases* tab of the *Search the library* box or from <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/geography>

- **Web of Science:** This database helps you access a wide range of key journals for all aspects of geography. This database is particularly useful for physical and environmental geography.
- **Science Direct:** Contains around 2500 full text journals published by Elsevier, mainly in science, technology and medicine. Many physical and human geography areas are included.
- **Academic Search Complete:** A large multidisciplinary database, containing lots of full text articles. This database is particularly useful for human geography.
- **Sage journals:** This database contains journals published by Sage, covering a wide range of subjects within the social sciences, humanities and life sciences.
- **JSTOR:** This database provides an archive of full-text articles from a wide range of academic journals. JSTOR does not give access to issues which are less than 3-5 years old but is very useful for older journal articles.

If you want to learn more about how to research a topic in geography, have a look at the resources and ideas available at:

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/geography#researchskills>

Note that databases may cover journals and other publications which are not available from Brookes Library. See section 12 of this guide for how to access material from other libraries.

## 9. Finding newspaper articles, TV and radio programmes

To find newspaper articles, try LexisLibrary (for UK news sources), or Factiva (for international news sources). We also have digital archives of historical newspapers. See our news sources page at <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/collections/news-sources> for links to all of these options.

This page also provides information about Box of Broadcasts (BoB). BoB lets you view and record radio and TV programmes broadcast in the UK.

## 10. Statistics and other government publications

A wide range of authoritative and current statistics is available online. Look at <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/collections/statistics> to get some ideas for sources.

Information about searching for and using government publications can be found at:

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/international-relations-and-politics#governmentpubs>

## 11. Referencing in the Brookes Harvard style

Citing your sources - also called referencing - is an essential part of your academic work. The Department of Social Sciences recommends using the Harvard referencing system. For guidance on how to reference your sources in the Harvard style, take a look at these resources - all of which are available at <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/how-to/reference-and-avoid-plagiarism>.

- Brookes Harvard guide - available as a PDF document
- Cite Them Right Online - this comprehensive resource gives guidance on referencing in Harvard and information about plagiarism.

Find out more about referencing and see some examples at

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/geography#referencing>

EndNote is software that can help you to store your references and create bibliographies. See our EndNote page <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/how-to/use-endnote> for more information.

## 12. Beyond Brookes

When doing research for an in-depth project such as your dissertation you are likely to come across references to publications which are not held at Oxford Brookes Library. The Interlibrary Loan team may be able to supply you with most other items you need. Journal articles can usually be supplied in three working days; other materials will take longer. You can find out more at: <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/how-to/use-the-interlibrary-loan-service>.

You may find it useful to use other UK university libraries (for instance if you are away from Oxford in the vacations or if you live some distance from Oxford Brookes). You can apply for access through the SCONUL Access scheme. Full information on how to apply is at: <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/access-and-accessibility/access-to-other-libraries>.

Geography students registered on a dissertation module are entitled to apply to join the Bodleian Library at Oxford University. Find out more and download an application form from <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/access-and-accessibility/access-to-other-libraries>. You can search the Bodleian catalogue (SOLO) at <http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>

### Getting help and finding out more

More online information can be found on the Geography help pages, at <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/geography>

If you need any help with finding or using library resources for geography please contact **Charlie Brampton** (Academic Liaison Librarian) using the contact details below.

Email: [c.brampton@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:c.brampton@brookes.ac.uk)

Tel: 01865 483077

JHB 112, Headington Library, Oxford Brookes University

Twitter: @brookeslibrary

Instagram: @oxfordbrookeslibrary

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