Geography

A guide to finding resources to support your study

1. Subject 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 Subject Help pages for Geography have links to key-e-resources, links to new books, downloadable guides and much more: https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/subject-help/geography/

2. Searching the Library's collections

The library website is at http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/ and this always the best place to start.

Use the big search box in the middle of the page to start searching for resources available within the library and online. Just select the tab that best describes what you’re searching for, type your search words in the search box and click ‘go’

3. Reading Lists

Reading lists for each of your modules are usually available online and include direct links to the relevant resources. You can see each list within the appropriate Moodle course, or use the Reading lists tab in the library search box to look up the module number or name.
4. Finding Books

Choose **Books and e-books** to search for **books** held in any of our four libraries. The results screen will tell you if a book is available and give you the call number (this shows where it's shelved). You can click on the book title and use the “place hold” option to request items which are on loan or held at another Brookes library.

**E-books** are also displayed in the search results. You will need to log in with your Brookes student number and password when prompted. Our e-books are on various different platforms so options for viewing and downloading will vary. Just ask if you need some help with e-books.

Key books on reading lists may have been put into **Short Loan** – the catalogue will show this as the location. Short loan books can be found next to the Welcome Desk on level 1 of the JHB library.

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 the library, in the sciences as well as the social sciences. To get started, try looking at:

- 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
- 526 Cartography
- 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
- 912 Atlases
- 914 - 9 Regional geography

If you need help finding these numbers on the shelves in the library, download a library floorplan from [https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/site-libraries/library-floor-plans/](https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/site-libraries/library-floor-plans/)

6. Starting research: reference works

The library holds a wide range of reference works such as specialised dictionaries and encyclopaedias, which can offer 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.

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.

Most of our journals are available online. Print journals are shelved in the JHB library basement.

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. Either way, use the ‘journal titles’ tab to search for the journal title.

For example, imagine you were looking for this article:


Here, the journal title is *Soccer and Society* so that is what you need to type in the ‘journals title’ search box. Once in the 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 key words or topics, in order to find relevant articles.

8. Researching a topic

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

Databases which may help you find useful journal articles for geography include:

- **Academic Search Complete** - Multi-disciplinary database, much of the content is full text.
- **IBSS** - *International Bibliography of the Social Sciences* – This database focuses on anthropology, economics, political science and sociology but can be useful for other social sciences.
- **JSTOR** - Archive of full-text articles from academic journals in a wide range of humanities and social sciences disciplines. NB most journals do not give access to issues which are less than 3-5 years old.
- **Sage Premier Collection** - This resource gives access to about 480 journals published by Sage covering a wide range of subjects
- **Science Direct (Freedom Collection)** - Contains around 2500 full text journals published by Elsevier, mainly in the sciences. Full text coverage for most journals in the collection is available from 2002 to present.
- **Web of Science** - This is particularly useful for physical and environmental geography.
Some databases such as *Academic Search Complete* give you the **full text** of most articles, often in the form of PDF files that you can save or print.

Other databases such as *IBSS* will give you an **abstract** or summary of the article but not the whole thing. The next step is to find out whether the library has that article in print or electronic form. If you see a **Find Full Text** option next to a reference you can click on this to check whether the article is available as an e-journal and, if so, be taken directly to it. Alternatively you can use the ‘journal titles’ search on the library homepage to see whether we have the journal you want (see section 7 above).

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

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

For articles from current newspapers, try *LexisLibrary* (UK news sources), or *Factiva* (international news database). We also have these digital archives of historical newspapers. See our news sources page at [http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources/news-and-current-affairs/news-sources/](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources/news-and-current-affairs/news-sources/) for links to all of these options. This page also provides information about *Box of Broadcasts (BoB)*. This service 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/Resources/Statistics/](https://www.brookes.ac.uk/Library/Resources/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/government-publications/](https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources/government-publications/)

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 available on the library website ([http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/library-services/information-skills/citing-references-in-your-work-and-plagiarism/](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/library-services/information-skills/citing-references-in-your-work-and-plagiarism/))

- The Library guide *Citing your references using the Harvard (author-date) system* (available from the referencing page above or in print from the JHB Library Help Zone)

- *Cite Them Right Online* is an online resource accessible from the above referencing page and gives guidance on referencing in Harvard and information about plagiarism.

**EndNote** is software that can help you to store your references and create bibliographies. See our EndNote Web pages at [http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/library-services/endnote/](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/library-services/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** service
will be able to supply you with most other items you need. We make a small charge for every item we provide for you through interlibrary loan. Journal articles can usually be supplied in 3 working days; other materials will take longer. You can find out more at: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/library-services/borrowing/interlibrary-loans-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: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/library-services/borrowing/access-to-other-libraries/

Undergraduate students registered on a dissertation module, postgraduates, researchers and staff are entitled to join the Bodleian Library at Oxford University. Ask at the Library Help Zone for an application form or download one from http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/library-services/borrowing/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/subject-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
Tel: 01865 483077

Headington Library, JHB 310 (Level 3, Zone C), Oxford Brookes University.