

RCN International Research Conference 2010
The Sage Gateshead
Fringe event: Thursday 13th May 2010

Finding full text information for research: barriers and gateways

Selected routes and links

Research Information Network www.rin.ac.uk The RIN seeks to understand how information providers are developing their services and how researchers are using them. They also look at ways to improve researchers' access to the information resources they need.

Identifying and finding theses

RCN Steinberg collection of nursing research

http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/library/steinberg_collection_of_nursing_research

A nursing subject collection containing or linking to over 1,300 theses. PhD theses & Masters dissertations from 1950 to 2000. **Selected** PhD theses from 2000 to date; some printed and others in full text via links to institutional repositories or the British Library ETHOS service. Searchable abstracts from Index to Theses or author abstracts are included in the catalogue record. The print collection from 1985 to date is held in the RCN UK library in London; earlier items are in the RCN Archive in Edinburgh but can be transferred on request to the RCN libraries in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh or London.

COPAC www.copac.ac.uk

Copac provides free access to the merged online catalogues of major UK and Irish academic and specialist research libraries, plus the British Library, the National Library of Scotland, the National Library of Wales/Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, and the National Art Library (V&A). It also includes details of special collections from a range of other libraries. Searches can be limited to theses.

British Library ETHOS service

<http://ethos.bl.uk>

Search over 250,000 theses, register and then request a pdf copy (free of charge if already digitised) or on CD or printed for a fee. If not yet digitised there may be a charge. Some universities are not part of the ETHOS service.

Institutional Repositories

At the moment there is no simple way to search across all institutional e-repositories by subject. www.dart-europe.eu & OpenDOAR (<http://www.opendoar.org/>) are prototype cross-repository search tools. Some UK repositories include restricted content (e.g. only available to staff in the institution) as well as free full text. If you know the university awarding a thesis go to Repository 66 <http://maps.repository66.org/> then link from the map to the university's online repository to check for full text content.

Request a copy on inter library loan

Ask your university, NHS or RCN library to arrange this.

Finding full text journal articles, books and reports

RCN e-library

www.rcn.org.uk/library (members only - requires membership number and online password registration on first visit). Included is online content from more than 700 journals e.g. Journal of Advanced Nursing to the current issue. Search for e-books and reports by limiting the 'library' to 'E-library'. Print books and reports can be lent to RCN members by post.

Academic libraries

Registered students have access to a wide range of full text and print resources with a secure username and password for off-site use. Some libraries will allow entry to non-registered researchers but accessing e-journals is often denied due to licence restrictions.

NHS libraries

Content and who can use the NHS libraries varies between countries.

England – www.evidence.nhs.uk

There are useful free resources available to all via this site, e.g. Cochrane systematic reviews & Health Technology Assessments. Staff working for the NHS in England are entitled to username and password for online access to e-journals and e-books. Non-NHS users may be given on-site access in NHS libraries to some online resources but check before visiting. The core national collection of resources is topped up by local additional purchases.

Wales – www.wales.nhs.uk

NHS Wales employees only are able to apply for an Athens username and password for online access to e-journals and OVID e-books.

Northern Ireland - <http://www.honni.qub.ac.uk/>

Queens University Belfast and NHS Northern Ireland staff have full access to HONNI e-journals and e-books.

Scotland - www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk

Access is wider than in the other 3 countries of the UK. In addition to NHS Scotland employees other authorised users include members of the RCN living or working in Scotland, staff in care homes & prison health services and those working for partner agencies. Check the website for full information on who can register. Print journal photocopies can be ordered via the knowledge centre.

Google

Enter details in Google Scholar. If full text access is denied try using your university or NHS login details. If this journal is not licensed for you, consider purchasing access.

Still not found?

- Request help from your supervisor or local library & information service. The library will be able to request inter-library loans (or pdf or photocopies) on your behalf.
- <http://www.deepdyve.com> New! Rent (view only and unable to print or download) an article for 24 hours for \$0.99 from selected journals
- Search COPAC (www.copac.ac.uk) to find out where a journal is held. It may be worth visiting a different university or a national library but check access rules before going.
- If your university is a member of the SCONUL access scheme you will be able to gain access to other libraries <http://www.access.sconul.ac.uk/>
- Visit the British Library reading rooms in St Pancras or Boston Spa (www.bl.uk)
- Request copies of articles and book loans directly with the British Library – at a price. BL Direct will email a digitised copy of an article to you for a service charge of over £8 + VAT plus a copyright fee which varies between publishers. For a Journal of Clinical Nursing (2010) article the copyright fee quoted is £22. <http://direct.bl.uk>

Make the most of your RCN membership. Any questions? Contact the RCN in person, by phone, email or virtual enquiry - www.rcn.org.uk/library/contact
