Finding Material in the Library

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Education Subject Guide
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2015

Education brochure 01/2015
Finding Material
As a copyright library with currently over six million items in formats ranging from manuscripts to online resources, it is important that you become familiar with the Library’s collections through the proper use of catalogues and search engines to support your study. In SEARCH COLLECTIONS on our homepage, you will see the full range of these search tools.

Getting started: To get an overview of recommended resources such as databases, as well as subject librarian contact details, select Subject Guides, Education. You may need to view other guides depending on your specialization.

Catalogues are key to locating material.

STELLA search is the main library discovery tool acting as both catalogue to our collections and gateway to other external online resources. To search for books (incl. e-books), reports, official (gov’t) publications etc. type the title, author or combination of both into the searchbox. Then select Library catalogue only to focus on our holdings. Clicking on the title will give you full details including location and number of copies available for that title. Books are either on the open shelves or on closed access (Stacks). The main Education collection is located in the Lecky library (lower level) at 370 (see Floorplans on the homepage for layout). For open shelf books which may be on loan to other readers, use the Reserve it function to place a hold/reservation on that item.

Closed access items which can be consulted by undergraduates and borrowed by postgraduates, can be requested online using the option Request stacks item. Otherwise, use call slips.

STELLA search uniquely facilitates JOURNAL ARTICLE searching. Type in the article title and follow the links. If the pdf or html icons are not readily available, follow the link resolver indicated by a square TCD logo or Check TCD e-journals button to get to the fulltext. If unsuccessful search by journal title and review options for print or online editions. For further help, ask counter staff, email me (see over) or if unavailable, email dutylibrarian@tcd.ie. Other options for fulltext include inter-library loans and visiting other academic libraries.

The format facet is a useful feature in STELLA. It allows you to limit the results to a particular material type e.g. theses, e-books etc. It is important to note that STELLA does not link to all our online databases so always check recommended databases for your subject either in the relevant Subject Guide or Subject tab within Databases and E-Books.

Other catalogues: Classic is a more traditional interface and like all catalogues is listed under Search Collections on the homepage. It no longer facilitates online stack requesting. Special collections catalogues include the MARLOC catalogue for manuscripts and 1872 “Accessions” catalogue for material available mainly through the Early Printed Books department.

Repositories: Available through Search Collections, TARA provides free access to Trinity’s research output. This is part of the all-Ireland university portal RIAN.ie. Digital Collections provides free online access to Trinity’s historical collections.

Journals: To get an overview of education journals both print and online, type Education into STELLA search, and from the results page, select the format facet. Then click on either Print Journal or E-Journal options for titles. You can also search solely for online journals via the Search Collections (E-Journals Only) option. Here you can search by title or discipline (use subject tab). N.B. an e-journal may often be available in a number of online resources, so always select the one which contains the years you are interested in. Please report broken links to cosullvn@tcd.ie.

When you are off-campus, you will need your College username/password to access subscribed resources. If you encounter access problems relating to your password contact IS Services (helpdesk@tcd.ie).

Open shelf print journals are shelved at 370 in the Ussher Library basement but the majority are in Stacks. Use call slips to request these. Delivery from Santry stacks takes one day.

Theses: To get comprehensive information on theses (including policy, search tips and resources), select Theses from the section Using the Library on the library homepage. Trinity theses are stack items and must be requested online. For a complete listing of education theses in the library, type Education into STELLA and refine further to the TCD thesis category. You can also search by author, title or degree title e.g. Education, Ph.d.

Databases and E-books
Databases contain valuable information for your research. As mentioned earlier, many are now searched via STELLA but not all. The majority provide peer-reviewed, scholarly content and formats range from purely journal and e-book content to mixtures of materials. The former generally provide direct access to the fulltext whereas other bibliographic databases such as the main education databases ERIC, British Education Index or the Australian Education Index provide a reference and summary of govt. publications, theses, reports, conf. proceedings and journal articles. In this case, the Library has embedded links to the online content where available. A general tip for database use is to always register with the database provider to avail of useful features (Alerts, Search history etc.). Use HELP sections to improve searching and the Thesaurus (Subject Terms) to ensure your search terms are accurate. Useful e-book databases/platforms for education include OECDiLibrary and MyiLibrary.