



## Civil and Structural Engineering Information Sources

As a member of the University of Salford, you have access to a wide range of resources, including books, journals, and databases. This guide is intended for students studying civil engineering and structural engineering, and outlines information sources most relevant when researching for assignments, essays and dissertations.

### Finding Information Sources

#### Types of Information

Information can be found in a variety of formats. **Books** are a good starting point as they offer background information, a broad overview and lots of information across the breadth of a subject. **Journal articles**, by contrast, offer up-to-date expert research on highly specialised topics.

When finding information for your assignments, it is important to use a mixture of formats to ensure your research is balanced. See this e-Learning for more advice about the information sources that are available to you, when to use them and how to find them:

<http://library-files.salford.ac.uk/elearning/resource-toolkit/story.html>

#### Using Library Search

Library Search is the gateway to the Library's information resources in both print and electronic form.

To access it, go to the **Library & Learning Support** menu on the **Student Channel** <http://www.salford.ac.uk/students> and click the **Library Search** link.



When Library Search opens, type in what you want to search for and choose whether you want to find books, articles or everything.

#### Print resources

You will see a link telling you which of our libraries the item is available in and its shelf number. Click this link to find out how many copies are available.

BOOK  
2 versions of this record exist. [See all versions >](#)  
**Essential study skills : the complete guide to success at university**  
Tom Burns 1959- author. Sandra Sinfield author.  
Los Angeles : SAGE 4th edition. 2016  
[Available at Clifford Whitworth Main \(378.170281 BUR\) >](#)

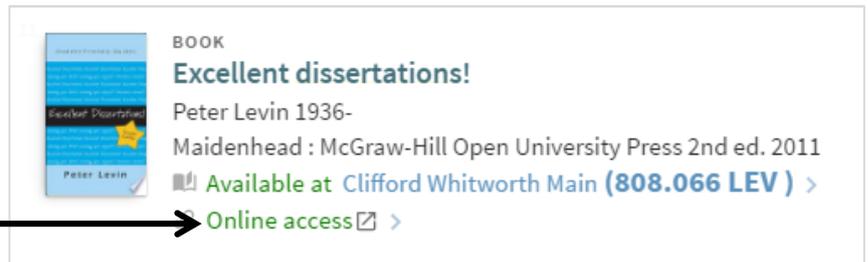
**Clifford Whitworth Main 378.170281 BUR**  
(17 copies, 15 available, 0 requests)

Click the **LOCATE** button to see a map showing you where in Clifford Whitworth the item is shelved.

## eBooks

Many of our books are available in electronic format. To limit your results so that you only find e-books use Library Search and then click **Books (Electronic)** under the **Resource Type** heading.

Click the **Online access** link to open the book.  
If you are asked to log in use your network username and password.

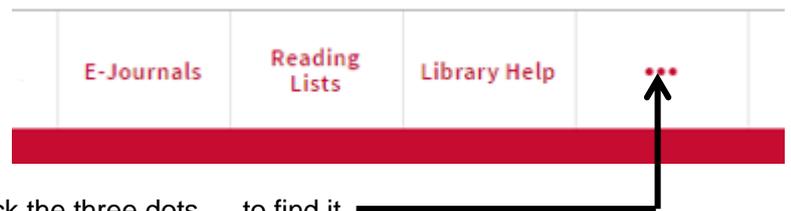


BOOK  
**Excellent dissertations!**  
Peter Levin 1936-  
Maidenhead : McGraw-Hill Open University Press 2nd ed. 2011  
Available at [Clifford Whitworth Main \(808.066 LEV\)](#) >  
[Online access](#) >

## eJournals

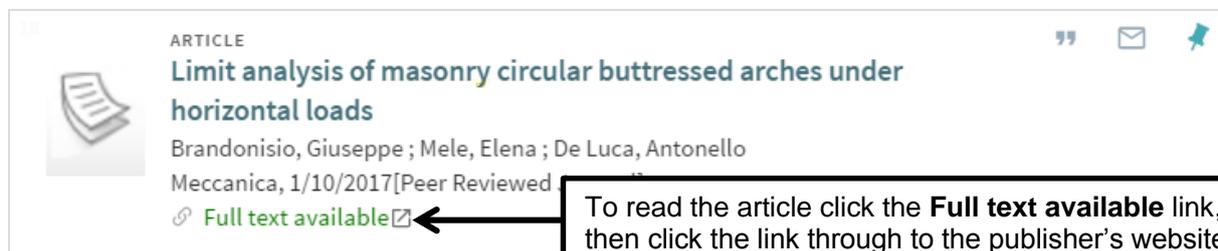
Nearly all our journals are held in electronic format only. If you wish to check if the Library has access to a particular journal, click the **E-Journals** link in Library Search to and type in the journal title.

Note: if you can't see the **E-Journals** link, click the three dots ... to find it.



E-Journals Reading Lists Library Help ...

You can also search for journal articles on a specific subject using Library Search, by changing the search option to **Articles & more**.



ARTICLE  
**Limit analysis of masonry circular buttressed arches under horizontal loads**  
Brandonisio, Giuseppe ; Mele, Elena ; De Luca, Antonello  
Meccanica, 1/10/2017[Peer Reviewed]  
[Full text available](#)

To read the article click the **Full text available** link, then click the link through to the publisher's website.

Read the full text at: [SpringerLink Journals Complete](#)  
Available from 1997 volume: 32  
Authentication notes:  
Network username and password required off campus

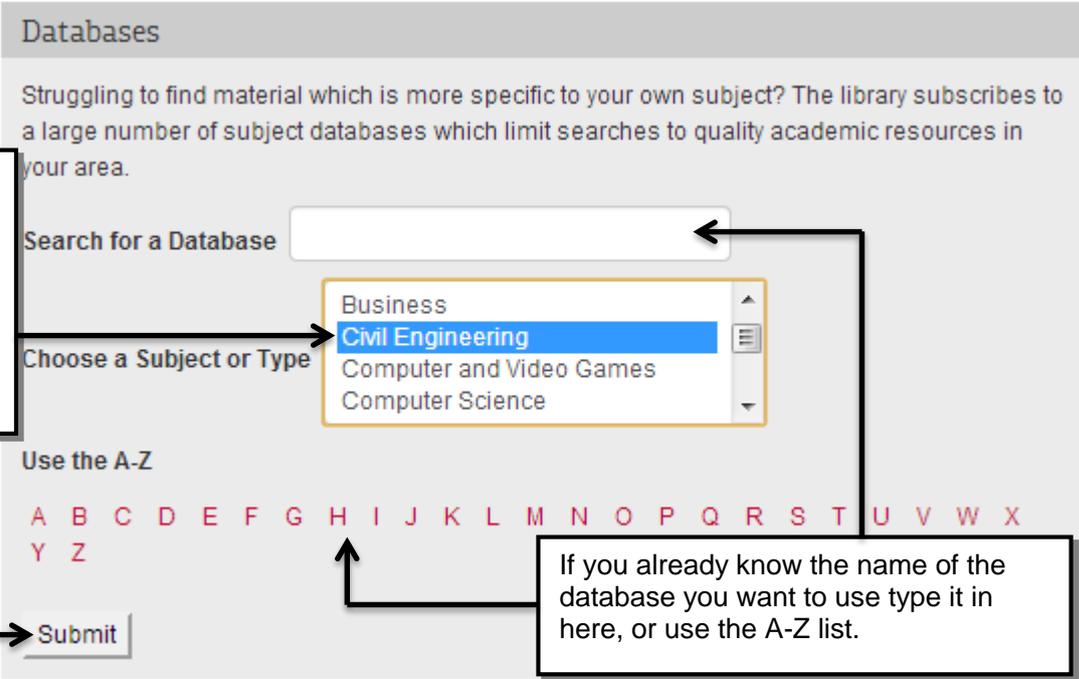
While the '**Articles & more**' option will search through a range of databases subscribed to by the University, it is not a comprehensive search. If you wish to perform a more in-depth search for journal articles, reports, conference proceedings, etc., you might find it easier to search within individual databases related to your field of study.

## Databases

Databases are searchable online collections. These are subscription services, offering good quality, peer-reviewed academic information. The material they contain is not freely available on the internet. The Library subscribes to a variety of general and subject specific databases, providing access to a range of different types of information, including journal articles, abstracts, books and book chapters, official documentation, newspapers and conference proceedings.



To access all our databases click the **Databases** link at the top of the Library Search screen.



Select **Civil Engineering** from the menu, then click the **Submit** button.  
  
The relevant subject databases will be listed.

If you already know the name of the database you want to use type it in here, or use the A-Z list.

Database info	Links
<a href="#">Academic Search Premier</a>	<a href="#">Link to database</a>
<a href="#">ASCE Library</a>	<a href="#">Link to database</a>
<a href="#">Box of Broadcasts</a>	<a href="#">Link to database</a>
<a href="#">British Geological Survey</a>	<a href="#">Link to database</a>
<a href="#">British Standards Online</a>	<a href="#">Link to database</a>
<a href="#">Building Research Establishment</a>	<a href="#">Link to database</a>

Use **Link to database** to go straight into the database.  
  
If you are working off-campus you may be asked to log in. See the information on the next page about this.

Click on the title of the database for information about what the database includes, the subject areas covered, information about off-campus access, and links to help pages, where available.

## Off campus access

You can gain access to many databases off campus (outside the University). To do so you will need to use the appropriate password information. You can find out the type of password authentication required by clicking on the database title – see page 3.

- Most databases require your network username and password for off-campus access. Often you will go straight to a login screen but sometimes you need to look for a link called **Institutional Login** and search for **University of Salford** first.
- Some databases require individual password information. These are listed on the Library website at: <http://www.salford.ac.uk/library/resources/e-passwords>. Please note, you will need to log in with your network username and password to view this information.

## Choosing Information Sources

### Dictionaries, handbooks and encyclopaedias

These reference books can help you to understand your subject and define your search terms. Use Library Search to find them.

Examples include:

- Civil Engineering Handbook
- Dictionary of Construction, Surveying, and Civil Engineering
- Handbook of Structural Engineering
- New Penguin Dictionary of Civil Engineering
- Spon's Civil Engineering and Highway Works Price Book

### Key Subject Databases for Civil and Structural Engineering

These are some of the databases which specialise in your subject area. They are not available freely via the web and contain access to quality, peer-reviewed material.

- **ASCE Library** - Providing the latest civil engineering research and its application, the collection includes over 55,000 journal articles from 1983 to the present, with more than 4,000 technical and professional articles added annually, and more than 370 conference proceedings volumes from 2000 to the present.
- **ICE Virtual Library** – The world's most comprehensive online civil engineering resource, providing access to the Institution of Civil Engineers' journals, conference proceedings and books.
- **Science Direct** - Science Direct is a leading full-text scientific database offering articles from more than 2,500 peer-reviewed journals and chapters from more than 11,000 books. Coverage is from at least 1995 onwards, although many publications are much earlier.
- **Scopus** - The largest abstract and citation database of research literature and quality web sources. Updated daily, Scopus includes millions of records for journal articles, conference papers, book chapters and patents from 5 patent offices.
- **SpringerLink** - Access to a wealth of online journals from Springer covering all aspects of science and engineering.

Follow the instructions on page 3 of this guide to access these databases, and to find more that are suitable for your subject area.

**Please note:** certain databases only provide abstract details and do not offer a fulltext copy of articles in electronic format. For these items you will need to check Library Search to see if we have a print version available. You could also click on the  link to see if the article is available from another source.

## Standards

Standards give details of how materials and products should be manufactured, defined and tested and lay down any conditions that must be fulfilled.

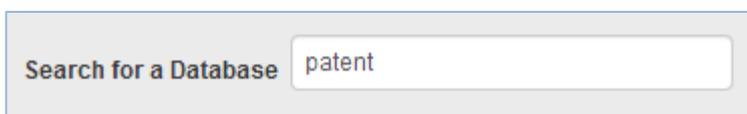
- **British Standards Online**  
Fulltext coverage of all British Standards and corresponding European (EN) and International (ISO) standards. For more information, see the FAQ, *How do I find a British Standard?*, available at:  
<http://salford.libanswers.com/e-resources/faq/137330>
- **ESDU (Engineering Sciences Data Unit)**  
Validated engineering methods, data principles, worked examples, programs and related equations on over 1,200 specific aerospace, process, structural and mechanical engineering topics. For more information see the blogpost *Explore ESDU*, available at:  
<http://blogs.salford.ac.uk/digital-literacy-skills/explore-esdu/>

## Patents

Patents can show the latest technological development in a particular field, and often describe significant developments long before they are revealed elsewhere.

You can access both the **UK Patent Office** and **United States Patent and Trademark Office** through the **Databases** option on Library Search (see page 3).

Type the word **patent** in the Search form and click **Submit**.



Search for a Database

Links to patent sites plus discussion groups and legal information can be found at PIUG – Patent Information Users’ Group at <http://www.piug.org>

## Design Manual for Roads and Bridges

This collection of electronic manuals contain current standards, advice notes and other published documents relating to the design, assessment and operation of trunk roads and motorways.

Use the **Library Search – Books & more** (see page 1) to search for the manual.

## Conference Proceedings

Results of new research and original thinking are often put forward for discussion at meetings and conferences; specialist databases for tracing this information are listed below. These can be accessed through the **Databases** link on **Library Search** (see page 3 of this guide).

- **Web of Science: Core Collection**  
At the search page click the **MORE SETTINGS** link and make sure the **Conference Proceedings Citation Index - Science** option is ticked. Untick the other options if you want to restrict your results solely to conference proceedings. Use the **Full Text** and **FIND IT** button to see if we have access to the fulltext.

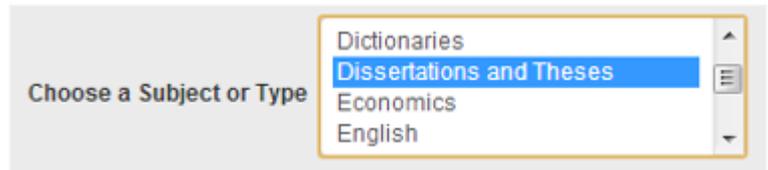
- **Zetoc**

At the Zetoc homepage click the **Zetoc Search** link, then click the **Conference Search** link. There is no fulltext on Zetoc, but enough information is provided to enable you to check Library Search to see if we have access to the papers at Salford.

## Theses

We have access to have a number of theses collections, some of which provide fulltext.

- Access through the **Databases** link on **Library Search**.
- Select **Dissertations and Theses** from the menu.
- Click the **Submit** button.



The main theses collections are:

- **Salford University e-theses** – There is a growing collection of University of Salford theses available online, via USIR, the University’s Institutional Repository.
- **ETHOS** - The British Library’s Electronic Theses Online Service, which provides access to digitised theses from participating universities from across the UK, including the University of Salford.
- **Proquest Dissertations & Theses** - More than two million entries, covering mainly American doctoral dissertations and masters’ theses, from 1861 onwards. Abstracts are available from 1980 onwards, and often a preview of the dissertation is provided - but the database doesn’t contain any full text.

For further details on finding theses and instruction on using the assorted databases, please see the FAQ *How can I find theses?* available at:

<http://salford.libanswers.com/e-resources/faq/137926>

## Need something we don’t have?



If there are books, DVDs or journal articles you would like for your studies or research that the Library does not have, you can ask us to buy them for you.

Go to the **Need something...?** section of the Library homepage at:

<http://www.salford.ac.uk/library>

Choose from **Book, DVD or CD** or **Journal article** and fill in the form to request the item you want.

## Library Champion

Your Library Champion is a student representative who can order also library books for you, as well as raising problems you might be having with the Library, and taking forward suggestions you think of for improving and developing library services. To find the Library Champion for Computing, Science and Engineering go to:

<http://www.salford.ac.uk/library/help/library-champions>

## Using other libraries

As a member of the University of Salford you have access to a number of local and national libraries.

- **SCONUL Access** - this is a scheme which allows you to borrow or use books and journals at 175 other libraries across the country. To find out more go to: <http://www.sconul.ac.uk/sconul-access>
- **British Library Catalogue** – lists over 13 million items in the British Library collection <http://catalogue.bl.uk>
- **COPAC** – provides access to the online catalogues of some of the largest university research libraries in the UK and Ireland. <http://copac.ac.uk/>

## Getting help

If you are having problems finding information, please ask for help.

Your **Academic Support Librarian** will be able to advise you of the best resources for your research, and help you get the most out of searching them.

### Anne Sherwin

Academic Support Librarian for Computing, Science and Engineering

**Phone:** 0161 295 6846

**Email:** [a.sherwin@salford.ac.uk](mailto:a.sherwin@salford.ac.uk)



There is also lots of advice and links to further information on the subject page for **Computing, Science and Engineering**, available at: <http://bit.ly/sflsubject>

### Library Support Desk

The Support Desk provides general support and advice on all library services and facilities.

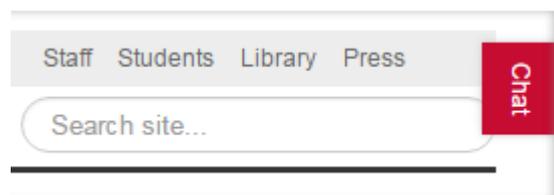
**Email:** [library@salford.ac.uk](mailto:library@salford.ac.uk).

**Phone:** +44 (0)161 295 5535

**Text:** +44 (0)1689 422 053

### Chat

You can use our Chat service to get help from a librarian 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Click the **Chat** tab on the right-hand side of any page on the Library website <http://www.salford.ac.uk/library>, type in your question and click **Enter**.



### Ask The Library

Search our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to see if your enquiry has already been answered, and ask your own questions online:

<http://salford.libanswers.com/>

## Skills for Learning

The **Skills for Learning** website provides online help, including links to guides, e-Learning and videos, covering everything you need to know about finding, understanding, using and referencing information, academic reading and writing, IT, digital skills and much more.

There are also details of workshops and one-to-one appointments available for you to attend.



**Skills for Learning** is available at:

<http://www.salford.ac.uk/skills-for-learning>

or access through the logo on the Student Channel.:

<http://www.salford.ac.uk/students>

### I need help with...

- Referencing
- Writing my essay
- Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Searching for information
- Understanding plagiarism
- Formatting my dissertation
- e-Submission and Turnitin
- Exams and revision

Use these menus for a quick start, depending on what you want to do, or what you would like to learn about, or use the **Browse by topic** sections for more information.

### I would like to...

- Do some eLearning
- Read a study guide
- Watch a video
- Attend a workshop
- Find information for my subject
- Book a one-to-one appointment
- Contact you

Our Blog: hints and tips for study



Read our Student Diaries



Also see **Skills for Learning** on:

- **Blog:** [blogs.salford.ac.uk/digital-literacy-skills](https://blogs.salford.ac.uk/digital-literacy-skills)
- **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/skillsforlearning](https://www.facebook.com/skillsforlearning)
- **Twitter:** @skillupUS