

About Politics and Contemporary History Databases

This guide is intended for students studying Politics and Contemporary History. It outlines the information sources available to help you research for assignments, essays and dissertations.

What is a database?

If you want to find journal articles on a topic, and you don't already have the journal reference, you will need to use a subject database. Some subject databases provide the full text of journal articles, which you can download, while others provide bibliographic information only, but this information is enough to help you find the full article in The Library's printed journal collection, or order it using The Library's Document Delivery service.

How do I access the databases?

To Access SOLAR go directly to: <http://students.salford.ac.uk/> and choose the **SOLAR Library Search** link under the **Web Resources** tab.

- Select the **Sign in** tab in the top right and you will be prompted to enter your network username and password.
- Click on the **Find Databases** heading (top right of screen).

The screenshot shows the 'Find Databases' search interface. It includes a search form with fields for 'Name', 'Type', 'Subject', and 'Sub-category', along with a 'Find databases' button. Below the search form is a list of databases under the heading 'All Databases', with an alphabetical index (A-Z) above the list. The list includes 'Academic Search Premier(EBSCO) (Athens off campus)', 'ACCA Research Reports', and 'M Digital Library (Proxy service required off campus)'. Several callout boxes provide instructions: one points to the 'A-Z' lists, another points to the 'Subject' tab in the search form, a third points to the database title links, and a fourth points to the '(Athens off campus)' note.

If you know the name of the database you can search using the A-Z lists.

You can also search by subject. Click the **Subject** tab and choose your subject from the Subject menu. The relevant subject databases will then be listed.

Click the **title link** to go directly to the database.

The list will also tell you if your password is needed for off campus access.

- A list of Subject Databases relevant to Politics and Contemporary History will be displayed.
- Select the database name to login. You may be prompted for your network username and password.
- There are help pages on most databases that you can access for more information. You can also ask at the Enquiry Desk in the library for help.

Which one do I choose? Key Subject Databases for Politics & Contemporary History

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



JSTOR

An archive of some of the major journals in a variety of disciplines. Allows you to access full text journal articles, all peer reviewed so ensuring that the articles you find have been reviewed by other academics before publication.



Academic Search Premier

Designed specifically for academic institutions, *Academic Search Premier* Academic Search Premier is a multi-disciplinary full text database containing full text for more than 4,600 journals, including nearly 3,900 peer-reviewed titles. In addition to the full text, this database offers indexing and abstracts for 8,470 journals.



British Humanities Index

An international abstracting and indexing tool for research in the humanities, BHI indexes over 320 internationally respected humanities journals and weekly magazines, as well as quality newspapers published in the UK and the United States.

Please note that not everything you find will be available in electronic format. For these items you will need to check SOLAR to see if we have a print copy available. You can also click on the FIND IT tab  to do this and to see if it is available elsewhere. Our SOLAR User Guide, www.salford.ac.uk/library/userguides/57224, provides more information.

Off campus access

You can gain access to many databases off campus (outside the University) by using your network username and password. Visit a Library Enquiry Desk or email <mailto:library@salford.ac.uk> if you have problems.

To access some resources you may need to set your web browser to authenticate you as a Salford user: see the Library Guide Web Authentication – access to restricted web pages from off campus for details: www.salford.ac.uk/library/userguides/62729.

Further help and assistance

Documentation on individual services provided through The Library is available at our website (www.salford.ac.uk/library/help). If you are having problems tracing information, please ask for help