A User's Guide to Online Research

The Academic Directories and other Educational Resources provided on the Alliance's website should be your first stop for finding the information you need – whether it is for a research paper or simply to satisfy your own curiosity. The Academic Directories are a particularly rich resource. At present, they are available in three academic disciplines – Classics, History, and Literature – and more are coming soon. Each directory identifies high-quality, freely available academic resources on the Internet selected by academic experts.

If you cannot find what you are looking for on the Alliance's website – or if you need to conduct further research – this user's guide should help you find alternative sources of information. This document provides information about research resources that are generally available at many state, public, and college and university libraries. Access to such collections may require special arrangements.

Beyond that, this guide describes resources that are available to the alumni of Oxford, Stanford, and Yale Universities – the universities coordinating this project. Please note that most of those additional resources are restricted to graduates of these universities.

This is intended to be a living document. Please suggest resources, send comments and report broken links via email to: help@AllLearn.org. When writing, please type "Academic Directories" in the subject field of your message. Alternatively, you can fill out the form located on the Help section of our website.

Research Guides and Tutorials

The following guides and tutorials prepared by the librarians at Oxford, Stanford, and Yale provide useful information about conducting academic research in libraries and on the Internet.

Stanford University Library Collections by Subject
http://www-sul.stanford.edu/collect/alphasub.html

Yale University Research Guides by Subject
http://www.library.yale.edu/guides/

Beginning Library Research
http://www-sul.stanford.edu/guides/beglib.html

Library Research Tutorial
http://www.library.yale.edu/instruction/topic.html

How to Find Journal Articles
http://www.library.yale.edu/instruction/journals/index.html

Doing Research Abroad
http://www.library.yale.edu/instruction/abroad/knowgo.html

Using the Internet for Research in English Literature
http://www.humbul.ac.uk/vts/english/index.htm

Using the Internet for Historical Research
http://www.humbul.ac.uk/vts/history/index.htm

Internet Search Engines and Portals
http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/oxlip/internet.htm

Local, State, and Other Resources

Nearly everyone in the United States has access through local and state institutions to a wide array of printed and electronic information, including access to licensed online databases, professional reference services, and interlibrary loan services. Below, we have listed information about the different resources and services you might find at your local public library, state library, and neighboring college and university libraries.

Library Services

This section describes the typical characteristics of different research institutions and details some of the useful services available at these libraries. Services and resources vary greatly from one institution to another, so always contact the library before visiting and find out if you are allowed to:

Browse and/or borrow library materials
Search electronic databases at the library or remotely
Ask reference questions at the library or via telephone or email
Borrow materials from other libraries through an interlibrary loan service

Of course, you should also ask any other specific questions you might have about using a library or its collections.

Electronic Databases

As you do your research-and use the many informative Internet sites included in the Alliance's Academic Directories-you should also remember that there are many other important databases and electronic resources that you can access through your local public, state, or academic library. These databases may include full-text materials, images, and statistical data, in addition to important indexes and catalogs in any given field.

Yale University offers a detailed list of electronic resources that you can peruse in order to identify useful resources that may be available through another library. This list can be found at:
http://www.library.yale.edu/databases

In many cases, you will need to visit a local, public, state or academic institution to access these resources, although some state and public libraries may actually provide these resources online to library card holders. Connecticut's ICONN project is an example of this:
http://www.iconn.org/

Local Public Libraries

Local public libraries provide open access and assistance to all users. Although large public libraries often contain major research collections, most free public library collections tend to be small and focused on general interest materials. Many of these libraries will provide some form of interlibrary loan services, which allows you to borrow materials that the library does not own. As discussed earlier, some libraries also make available useful electronic databases that can greatly facilitate your research.

Please refer to the section entitled "Find Your Local Libraries" to locate a local library. When you visit a library's website, look for "electronic resources," "electronic databases," or "digital library." Sometimes, the projects have unique names like Connecticut's "IConn" project.

State Libraries

State libraries hold and provide public access to records of a state's history and heritage, but some also have strong general research collections. The services and collections should be freely available, and the libraries may provide access to state residents to any number of licensed electronic databases.

Please refer to the section entitled "Find Your Local Libraries" to find your state libraries.

Local Colleges and Universities

The libraries at state colleges and universities are often open to state residents, although access and use privileges vary. You should check with your nearby institutions to see what kind of resources are available. These collections tend to be more academic and research-oriented than those of state or public libraries.

Unless you are directly affiliated with a local college or university (faculty, student, staff, etc.), access is generally not permitted to licensed electronic databases, although there may be institutions that allow users who visit the library building to use such resources on-site. Other specialized services, such as interlibrary loan, may also be unavailable to you. Check with the library staff to find out exactly what services and resources you may use.

Please refer to the section entitled "Find Your Local Libraries" to find your local college and university libraries.

Interlibrary Loan Services

If your local library collection does not house a resource you need, your public library's interlibrary loan service can help you borrow books from other institutions. Many libraries are members of regional and/or national consortia that share materials. Check with your local library to see what kinds of services are available. You must provide an accurate citation (author, title, publisher, and

publication date) for the item you want. In some communities, you may be able to place the interlibrary loan requests yourself by searching in the consortia's online catalog and submitting a request directly. The item will then be delivered to your local library for you to borrow. Please note that interlibrary loan services can take a few weeks to process.

Alliance
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Find Your Local Libraries Online

Libdex
http://www.libdex.com/
Listings for over 17,000 libraries worldwide

Library of Congress Catalog Gateway
http://lcweb.loc.gov/z3950/
Links to the library catalogs at the Library of Congress and many other institutions.

Library Spot
http://libraryspot.com/librariesonline.htm
Links to several directories, including non-U.S. library listings

Lib-Web-Cats
http://library.vanderbilt.edu/breeding/libwebcats.html
Links to several directories, including non-U.S. library listings of library web pages, online catalogs, and profiles, and a directory of over 5000 libraries worldwide

The WWW Library Directory
http://www.webpan.com/msauers/libdir/
This directory indexes 7900 libraries and library-related websites in 130 countries

LibWeb
http://www.sjcpl.lib.in.us/homepage/PublicLibraries/PubLibSrvsGpherWWW.html
Major listing of over 500 public libraries worldwide

U.S. Public Libraries with Websites
http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Libweb/Public_main.html
Links to U.S. libraries that can be browsed by state and municipality

U.K. Public Libraries on the Web
http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/town/square/ac940/weblibs.html
A listing of public libraries in the U.K. and other useful links

Public Library Locator
http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/liblocator/library.asp
Nice site by NCES that allows you to locate any public library in the U.S.

Public Libraries of Europe
http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/town/square/ac940/eurolib.html
An alphabetical listing by country

National Libraries of the World

http://www.ifla.org/II/natlibs.htm
A listing of about 35 national library websites

National Library Catalogs Worldwide
http://www.library.uq.edu.au/natlibs
Links to searchable databases of the holdings of national libraries from around the world

National Libraries of Europe
http://portico.bl.uk/gabriel/en/
An alphabetical listing of the state libraries in over 30 European countries

The Canadian Library Index
http://www.lights.com/canlib/
A listing of Canadian Library websites that can be browsed by Province and Territories

Australian Libraries Gateway
http://www.nla.gov.au/libraries/
A directory of more than 5400 Australian libraries

State Library Websites
http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlcl/pld/statelib.html
A listing of all 50 state library websites

Directory of Library Directories
http://www.sir.arizona.edu/Directory/
Links to the library directories created by state library agencies in the U.S.

Medical/Health Sciences Libraries on the Web
http://www.arcade.uiowa.edu/hardin-www/hslibs.html
A listing of over 200 libraries organized by state and country

Presidential Libraries
http://www.nara.gov/nara/president/address.html
Links to United States presidential libraries

University Resources for Alumni

Each of the three universities offers its alumni some form of access to its library collections, along with a degree of reference desk help. By visiting the appropriate sections listed below, you can learn more about the specific research resources and services that these universities make available.

Please be sure to identify yourself as an alumnus/a whenever you contact your university's library.

University of Oxford
Library and Research Resources for Alumni

Please note that the library services described below are for alumni of the University of Oxford. You should be prepared to identify yourself as an alumnus/a when contacting the library.

University of Oxford Libraries
http://www.lib.ox.ac.uk/

Catalogues of the University of Oxford Libraries
http://www.lib.ox.ac.uk/libraries/libcats.html

Reference Services

Alumni may submit general reference queries relating to Oxford's collection of printed books and journals in Western languages to:
Reader Services Division/Bodleian
Address: Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BG
Phone with the UK: 01865 277162
Fax within the UK: 01865 287112
Phone outside the UK: +44(0) 1865 277162
Fax outside the UK: +44 (0) 1865 287112
Email: reader.services@bodley.ox.ac.uk

Library Access and Privileges

If you have matriculated in an award-bearing course of at least a year, you can receive free access to the Bodleian Library. For information about alumni privileges, please visit the Oxford University Society:
http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/

The Bodleian Library will photocopy and mail library materials for a fee. For more information about this service, please visit:
http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/guides/pdf/photocopy.pdf

For further information about library access, consult the Bodelian Library's admissions policies:
http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/boris/guides/admisfrm.htm

Online Electronic Resources

Access to all electronic resources depends upon the licenses that have been negotiated by the university. Alumni visiting the library in person are regarded as "walk-in" users and will be granted access to some of the electronic resources depending on license restrictions. Remote access to electronic resources is limited to those with a valid University computer service user name who

access the resources either from within the Oxford domain or via the Oxford "DialUp" service. For further information, see:
http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/registration/univcard.html

Stanford University
Library and Research Resources

Please note that the library services described below are for alumni of Stanford University. You should be prepared to identify yourself as an alumnus/a when contacting the library.

Stanford University Libraries
http://www-sul.stanford.edu/

Stanford University Libraries—Catalogs
http://www-sul.stanford.edu/catdb/libcat.html

Reference Services

Stanford offers alumni much the same reference services as all other visitors. To submit a reference question via the library's website, please visit:
http://www-sul.stanford.edu/cgi-bin/asklib.cgi

You will generally receive a response within a few hours and often within a few minutes depending upon the difficulty of the question. For more on Stanford Libraries' reference policy, visit:
http://library.stanford.edu/geninfo/refpol.html

Library Access and Privileges

Stanford alumni are entitled to seven days of free access in a 12-month period. In addition, members of the Stanford Alumni Association who present a membership card can get an additional seven courtesy days of access, or a total of 14 courtesy access days, in a 12-month period.

Alumni who desire borrowing privileges may purchase a borrowing card for three months at a cost of $120 or for 12 months at a cost of $300. A borrowing card grants access and borrowing privileges to all of the University Libraries. It will also be honored at the Coordinate Libraries, subject to their circulation policies. Alumni may borrow media materials for in-house use only (i.e., a three-hour borrowing period). The access policy is available online at:
http://www-sul.stanford.edu/geninfo/accesspol.html

For more information contact:
Privileges Office, Green Library
Stanford, California 94305-6004
Hours: Monday - Friday; 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Phone: (650) 723-1492
Fax: (650) 725-6874
Email: priv@sulmail.stanford.edu

Online Electronic Resources

Access to online databases is limited to on-site use in the libraries, although security issues may preclude access to certain computers. Subscription databases are not available from off-campus, although there are some freely available databases listed through the Stanford University Libraries website. Access to Stanford's online catalog, Socrates, is available from off-campus.

Yale University
Library and Research Resources for Alumni

Please note that the library services described below are for visiting researchers to the Yale University Library.

Yale University Library
http://www.library.yale.edu/

Yale University Library catalogs:
http://www.library.yale.edu/orbis/

Reference Services

The Research Services and Collections department in Sterling Memorial Library offers reference services, including email reference and telephone reference, on topics relating to the holdings of the Yale University Library. To ask for such assistance, fill out the online reference inquiry form:
http://www.library.yale.edu/reference/referencequestion.html

For more information, contact:
Reference Desk, Sterling Memorial Library
Email: smlref@yale.edu

Library Access and Privileges

Alumni wishing to make extended use of the library may have stack and borrowing privileges for a fee of $15 per month or $150 per year. Stack access for less than a month is free. The library's circulation policy is available online at:
http://www.library.yale.edu/circ/privlegs.html

For more information, contact:
Privileges Office, Yale University Library
Telephone: (203) 432-1853
Fax: (203) 432-2257
Email: smlcirc@yale.edu

Online Electronic Resources

The Yale University Library website includes free access to the catalog and a wide range of other information. Because of licensing agreements, certain on-site library locations limit services for those not currently affiliated to Yale.