

## NEOS Libraries Catalogue

The [NEOS Libraries Catalogue](#) provides the holdings of the libraries comprising the [NEOS Consortium](#). Materials listed will include books/reports (print and electronic), audio-visual material and subscription runs for periodicals (print and electronic).

Search the *NEOS Libraries Catalogue* if...

- You want to check for Reserve materials for courses you are in.
- You want to search for books/reports (print or electronic) or audio-visual material available at the University of Alberta or in other NEOS Library collections. You are *not* interested in books/reports or AV material not available at the U of Alberta or other NEOS Libraries.
- You have a list of journal article references and want to check to see whether the U of Alberta subscribes to the journals that contain my references (whether in print or online).

## UA WorldCat Local

[UA WorldCat Local](#) allows you to search for book/monographic/audio-visual materials in major research libraries across the world (with U of Alberta holdings listed first) and allows you to search for journal articles contained in the following databases: *PubMed/MEDLINE, ERIC, JSTOR, Elsevier Science Direct* and *OCLC ArticleFirst*.

Search the *UA WorldCat Local* if...

- You want to search for books/reports (print or electronic) or audio-visual material available at the University of Alberta, but you are *also* interested in seeing anything on your topic that isn't available locally and which you can request through the U of Alberta Interlibrary Loan Service.
- You are searching on a topic and want to find both books, articles and select internet resources on your topic, although you realize the article search in *UA WorldCat Local* is not comprehensive. If you don't find enough articles on your topic in *UA WorldCat Local*, you should either try *EBSCO Discovery Service* and/or check a relevant Subject page for databases that are specific to your subject area.
- You don't need to do a comprehensive article search – you just need to find a few good journal references on your topic.
- You have a list of article references and wish to check for availability. You will search by the last name of the first author, title keywords and the name of the journal to check for availability. If you don't find the article you're looking for, before concluding that it is not available and requesting it through the *U of Alberta Interlibrary Loan Service*, you will double-check availability using one of the following methods:
  - Use the *GetIt Citation Linker* available at <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/getit/citation/index.cfm> or by clicking on the *Find Articles by Title* link on the main library website

- Search for the journal the article appearing on the [Journals by Title Page](#) .
- Search the NEOS Libraries catalogue by journal title.

### **EBSCO Discovery Service**

[EBSCO Discovery Service](#) (EDS) allows you to search for book/monographic/audio-visual materials contained in the University of Alberta and other NEOS library collections as well as journal articles contained in over 70 different databases representing a wide range of scholarly disciplines. Documents in the U of A Institutional Repository, [ERA \(Education and Research Archive\)](#) and Open Access documents from [OAster](#) are also searchable via EDS.

Search *EBSCO Discovery Service* if...

- You are searching on a topic and want to find both books and articles (print or electronic) on your topic. You are *not* interested in locating material that is *not* available locally.
- You don't need to do a comprehensive article search. You just need to find a few good journal references on your topic.
- You want to find out which databases are likely to have information on the topic you are researching. Once you find out which databases include relevant information by browsing the *Content Provider* list, you will search them directly.
- You are searching for articles on an interdisciplinary topic that could be covered in a number of different databases.

### **Should any of these three services be used if I need to do a comprehensive search on a topic, e.g. for a thesis/dissertation, grant proposal or systematic review?**

The *NEOS Libraries Catalogue* will be less useful for comprehensive searches. Its main value lies in double-checking for local availability of publications.

*UA WorldCat Local* and/or *EBSCO Discovery Service* could serve as a starting point for a comprehensive literature search – but in most cases it would be A STARTING POINT ONLY. The reason for this is that not all relevant information resources may be covered by either of these resources, but even if they are, the search functions are 'one size fits all' and important search features available in the 'native' interfaces of the databases that can assist you in carrying out a comprehensive search are not available, e.g. the 'explode' feature available in some databases that allows automatic inclusion of narrower terms is not available in either *UA WorldCat Local* or *EBSCO Discovery Service*.

If you do wish to use one of these services as a starting point for a comprehensive search, consider the following:

- If you are working in a discipline where book/monographic publications are as important as or more important than journal literature, you should consider starting with *UA WorldCat Local*.

For those book/monographic materials not available at the University of Alberta, use the 'Request Item through Interlibrary Loan' button to initiate an interlibrary loan request.

- If you are working in a discipline where relevant publications are more likely to be found in the journal literature, you should consider starting *with EBSCO Discovery Service* due to its broader coverage of the journal literature than *UA WorldCat Local*.

Whether you use *UA WorldCat Local* or *EBSCO Discovery Service* (or both) as a starting point, you should also visit one of our [Subject pages](#) for a listing of resources most relevant to your discipline and/or consult the [Liaison Librarian](#) for your subject area to discuss your literature search.