



# A Library Information Guide

2023



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# Want to know more about Access to Research?

Don't worry. We've got you covered with this [essential](#) information guide.

# Who is involved in Access to Research?

The service is a **unique collaboration** between:

- Publishers, represented by the Publishers Association and the Association of Learned & Professional Society Publishers
- Public Libraries, represented by Libraries Connected
- Publishers' Licensing Services, who administer the service
- ProQuest who provide the discovery tool





# Our Story

## A brief timeline of Access to Research

- 2011

In 2011 the UK government convened an independent committee to review how access to academic and publicly funded research could be broadened.

The committee, known as The Finch Group, submitted their recommendations in 2012.

- 2014

The Access to Research project begins a pilot phase, with major journal publishers granting public libraries a licence to provide free, walk-in access to their academic articles.

- 2016

Following a successful two-year pilot, stakeholders gave their backing for the service to continue. Access to Research was rolled out to all public libraries across the UK.





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# What exactly *is* Access to Research?

Access to Research gives anyone in a UK public library, **free**, walk-in access to **millions** of journal articles, provided by many of the world's **leading academic publishers**. Simple!

Whiting & Birch



EDINBURGH  
University Press

WILEY



SPRINGER NATURE

IOP  
Publishing



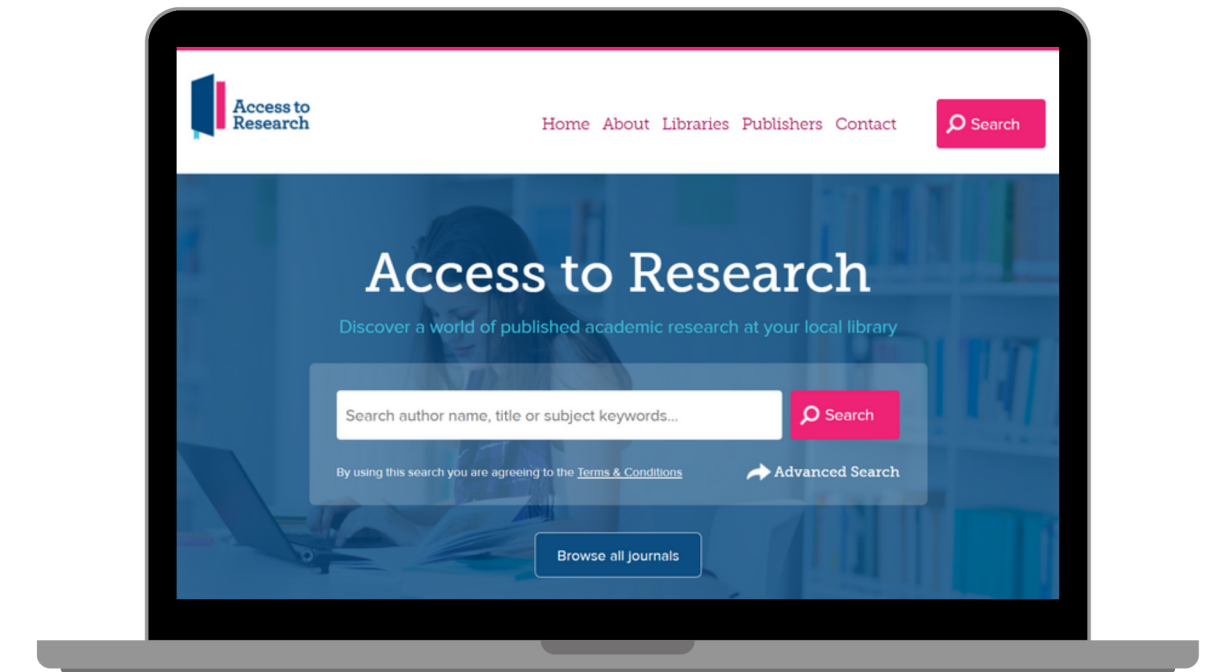
Dovepress  
open access to scientific and medical research



# How to search Access to Research

Users will need to go to [www.accesstoresearch.org.uk](http://www.accesstoresearch.org.uk) and click on the search button.

Searches can be made using [article and journal titles](#), [journal date](#), [author names](#) and [keywords](#). There is also an 'advanced search' tool for users wanting to provide more specific search criteria.



Users can use the search facility anywhere, but to read [full articles](#) they must be inside a public library. They can also print a copy of an article to read at home.

Search results can be refined and filtered via tools on the left-hand side of the page.

For guidance on what users can and cannot do with articles accessed via the service, please view the [Terms and Conditions](#) of use which are located on the Access to Research website.

# Access to Research

## FAQ

### Q How do we activate the service?

When you signed up for the service, you provided us with your library's [external IP address](#). Our IT team activate this IP address which in turn provides access to the service on your library computers.

If your IP address has changed, you will need to email the Access to Research helpdesk providing your new, [external IP address](#).

### Q A user is being asked to pay for an article, why?

Not every article in every journal is available for free access. Some recent articles may be subject to an embargo period, and old research may no longer be available.

If a user is trying to view an article and it is asking them to pay, or you receive a 'restricted' message, please [email the Access to Research helpdesk](#).

### Q A user is being asked to log in, why?

If a user is asked to log in to view an article, it is usually because your library's IP address is [not activated](#) or has recently changed.

Email the Access to Research helpdesk and provide us with your library's [external IP address](#).



# Access to Research

## FAQ

### Q What about Open Access Articles?

Open Access articles are **already available to view for free** on publisher's websites, and wherever possible they are included in the collections they provide via Access to Research.

Nothing in this service is intended to restrict any existing rights to access OA articles.

### Q What areas of study are included?

Subjects covered include:

- History
- Health and Social Care
- The Sciences
- Psychology
- Business
- Arts and Culture
- Genealogy
- Environment and Climate

...and much, much more!

### Q Who is Access to Research for?

**Everyone!**

It provides independent researchers with reliable sources to study, and it helps students study outside of term time.

It is an opportunity for people to pursue interests and hobbies using trusted research and for your customers to keep exploring and learning in later life.



# Still have questions?

We'd love to hear from you!  
[accesstoresearch@pls.org.uk](mailto:accesstoresearch@pls.org.uk)

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