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Finding Information on Politics

In order to produce good quality assignments, you should be using a range of different sources and materials. ***It is important to realise that you should be making use of QUALITY sources only, rather than simply relying on such as Wikipedia.*** This handout will help you find a wide range of **quality** material in the field of politics.

If you are struggling to find what you need - ask the Learning Centre staff. They like to help!



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Online Resources

The Learning Centre has bought licences to a range of specialised databases to help you find **QUALITY** material that has been assessed by fellow experts (peer-reviewed); these databases are **NOT** available freely via the web and should be a key part of your research.

To log in to these databases, you need your OPEN ATHENS password. You need to COME INTO THE LEARNING CENTRE to fill in a form for this password. *It is important that you do this as soon as possible.* You will then be given your username and password **Please make a note of these!**

Once you have your OpenAthens password, go to

<http://intolearningcentre.co.uk/online-resources/> and click on the

OpenAthens logo



You will then have access to the following databases:

- **The Reviews (*was called Philip Allan Databases*)**

Online access to current and past copies of *Business Review*, *Economic Review*, and *Politics Review*. Great way of keeping up-to-date with current issues. Great for politics course work.

Details of how to use this database efficiently are available in a range of simple guides (***Simple guides 11-16***)

- **EBSCO Discovery**

Provides a quick and easy way to search over 7,000 academic and business journals as well as electronic books. You can access the databases from INTO Manchester or at home. Good for politics, business research, marketing, management, accounting, finance and economics. Provides access to company information. Many of

the journal articles you find will also have the full text with them for you to read. **The Learning Resource Centre has 2 detailed guides on how to use Ebsco Discovery. Please ask the staff.**

Issues Online

Database on social issues; covers topics such as ethics, globalisation and ageing in society. Includes key statistics and also links to a range of e-books on social issues. Access **Issues Online** from INTO Manchester or at home. It is available via **http://intolearningcentre.co.uk/online-resources/**

You need a separate password for Issues Online: **This is on the screen when you go into Ebsco Discovery**



You need your OPEN ATHENS password to use the INTO Manchester databases. If you do not have one, ask the Learning Centre staff

There is a separate leaflet on how to use Issues Online (Simple Guide 19)

• Books

Your teacher will recommend key texts that you should read as part of your studies: most of these should be available in the

Learning Centre. To find both paper and electronic books you need to search using the Library Catalogue. The catalogue is available via the Learning Centre website at **https://intolearningcentre.co.uk/** The Library Catalogue gives you the “Dewey number” of the book. This will help you find it on the shelf as all books in the Learning Centre are organised in Dewey number order. The Dewey number for Politics is **320**

Details of how to use the catalogue efficiently are available in **Guide 4 Finding a Book in the Learning Centre**

• **Electronic/ E-Books**

Electronic books covering key topics in politics are also available and you can use these both at INTO Manchester or at home. As well as searching for a full book, you can also search across **ALL** the pages in available books, all at the same time, for the topic you are interested in.

Electronic books are available via Ebook Central and Ebsco Discovery which you find at <http://intolearningcentre.co.uk/online-resources/>

To log in to the electronic books collections, you need your OPEN ATHENS password. There are separate leaflets on how to use E-Books (Simple Guides 17/18)

• **Use Moodle**

Your tutors will have put valuable material on Moodle, the Virtual Learning Environment. **It is important that you log in and gain access to the International Foundation Politics area of Moodle.** This is available via the Learning Centre website at <http://intolearningcentre.co.uk/> **Select Moodle.**

If you need a password to register with the politics section on Moodle, your teacher will give you it.

Useful Websites

The internet is full of information resources for you to use for your studies. However, it is **VERY** important that you use information from reputable sources only. *Anyone can (and many do!) set up a website just to fool people/ promote their own point of view, so you need to be careful about which sources*



Manchester Central Library (a free public library for all) has access to many online journals, via its *Access to Research* system. Ask the Learning Centre staff for more details.

It is recommended that you make use of **Subject Gateways** that contain web resources that have been evaluated and quality checked by subject experts. Below are some subject gateways you might find of use for your research:

Subject Gateways

- **CORE (COncecting REpositories)**

Free access to millions of open access research papers.

Website: <https://core.ac.uk/>

- **Digital Commons Network**

Brings together free, full-text scholarly articles from hundreds of universities and colleges worldwide. **Website:** <http://network.bepress.com/>

- **Directory of Open Access Journals**

Gives access to some very useful “peer reviewed” journals for you to use. This means that articles have been checked by fellow experts. Suitable for those carrying out in-depth research. **Website:** <http://www.doaj.org/>

- **JURN**

Finds content in over 4,000 FREE ‘open access’ ejournals in the arts and humanities. Provides a useful list of the journals included. **Website:** <http://www.jurn.org/>

Useful Websites: Current Affairs and News

- **BBC News**

Latest UK and World news from the BBC. **Website:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

- **British Media Online** An interface to a wide range of major UK daily newspapers, local newspapers, media outlets and industry journals. **Website:** <http://www.wrx.zen.co.uk/britnews.htm>

- **Economist**

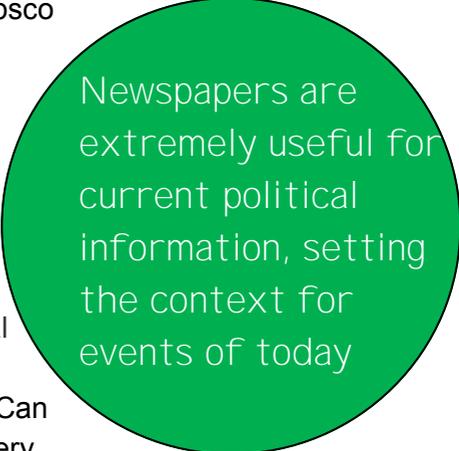
An absolute **must** for keeping up-to-date with current ideas and trends in economics, than then impacts on politics. Can read the current print copy of *The Economist* online. Print version available in the Learning Centre library **Website:** <http://www.economist.com/>

- **Guardian Newspaper**

Online version of *The Guardian*, the British daily national newspaper. A limited archive of older items from the paper is also available. Can also be searched via Ebsco Discovery **Website:** <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

- **Independent Newspaper**

Online version of *The Independent newspaper*, the British daily national newspaper. Has free access to archive of stories back to 1992. Can also be searched via Ebsco Discovery



Newspapers are extremely useful for current political information, setting the context for events of today

Useful Websites: Political Institutions



- **Europa.eu**

The official website of the European Union (EU). This site gives you basic information on how the EU works, the latest EU news and events and links to EU information on the websites of EU institutions and agencies such as the European Parliament, Council Commission and Court of European Justice. **Website:** http://europa.eu/index_en.htm

- **Gov.UK**

The best place to find government services and information. Not only is this site good for finding out information about rules for personal use (for example, information on TV licences), it has a clear round-up of how government works in the United Kingdom.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/>

UK Parliament Website Official website for UK Parliament with information on how parliament works, latest news and topics currently under debate. A great starting point for discovering how the British electoral system works. **Website:** <http://www.parliament.uk/>

Useful Websites: Political Discussion

- **Guardian Newspaper**

Online version of *The Guardian*, the British daily national newspaper which is useful for its political discussion. A limited archive of older items from the paper is also available. For a different political perspective, look at *The Times*: this is available in print form only in the Learning Centre. **Website:** <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

- **New Internationalist**

The New Internationalist reports on the issues of world poverty and inequality. Gives a different perspective on global politics from that found in many mainstream publications Available in print form in the Learning Centre. **Website:** <http://newint.org/>

- **New Statesman** Authoritative weekly political, cultural and current affairs magazine with often provocative and radical ideas. As well as the current magazine, the New Statesman website allows you to search for articles from the magazine archive. **Website:** <http://www.newstatesman.com/>

- **Politics.co.uk** Impartial political website with no political affiliation. The news section provides detailed coverage of what is happening in Westminster, the seat of UK government. Has a comment section which brings together different perspectives on controversial issues. Also has some basic guides to how parliament works, explaining every step of the political process. **Website:** <http://politics.co.uk/>

- **Richard Kimber's Political Science Resources**

Resources that were previously based at the University of Keele, now maintained as an individual's website. The site focuses mainly on the UK and the USA, especially election data. Still acts as a good gateway to constitutional information and data on different voting/ electoral systems. **Website:** <http://www.politicsresources.net/>

- **Trade Union Congress (TUC)**

The TUC campaigns for a fair deal at work and for social justice at home and abroad. Gives a different perspective on the political debate on the economy, welfare reform and equality issues from that found in mainstream media. **Website:** <http://www.tuc.org.uk/>

