

# Politics: finding information



INTO MANCHESTER

When you are doing your coursework at INTO Manchester, you should make use of **QUALITY** sources, rather than just using *Wikipedia*

This handout will help! Available online or pick up print copy from the Learning Centre.

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

Learning Centre Guide 19

Website: <http://intolearningcentre.co.uk>

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## Online Resources

The Learning Centre has special databases to help you find **QUALITY** material - these databases are **NOT** available freely via the web

**To log in to these databases from home, you need your OPEN ATHENS username and password. You need to COME INTO THE LEARNING CENTRE to get these.**

Once you have your OpenAthens details, go to

<http://intolearningcentre.co.uk/online-resources/>

click on the **OpenAthens logo and log in**



**You can use the following databases from INTO Manchester or at home:**

- **Politics Review (*was called Philip Allan Databases*)**

Current copy in library, this gives online access to past copies of *Politics Review*. Great for politics course work. Details on how to use in ***Simple guide 11***

- **European Newsstream**

Covers local and regional newspapers throughout Europe; includes *The Guardian*, *Independent*, *Times* and *Financial Times*. Great for up-to-date information. Details on how to use in ***Simple guide 25***

A large red circle with a black outline, containing white text. The text reads: "Newspapers are extremely useful for current political information, setting the context for events of today".

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

- **EBSCO Discovery**

For more in-depth research; search over 7,000 academic and business journals Details on how to use in **Guide 7a and 7b: using the Ebsco Databases**

- **Electronic/ E-Books**

Electronic books cover key topics in politics - you can use these at INTO Manchester or at home. Search for a full book or 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 via **Ebsco Discovery There are separate leaflets on how to use E-Books (Simple Guides 17/18)**

- **Issues Online**

Database on social issue; includes key statistics and also links to a range of e-books on social issues.

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

Details on how to use in **Simple guide**

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## **Use Moodle**

Your teachers will put valuable material on Moodle, the Virtual Learning Environment, also called MyINTO.



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

**It is important that you log in and use the International Foundation Politics area of Moodle.**

This is available via the Learning Centre website at

**<http://intolearningcentre.co.uk/> Select Moodle**

## Useful Websites

The internet is full of information resources for you to use for your studies. ***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 internet sources you use.***

Use search engines such as **Google Scholar** rather than Google itself so you know you will find some “scholarly”/ academic literature.

Google Scholar is available at: <http://scholar.google.co.uk/>

## Useful Websites: Current Affairs and News

- **BBC News**

Latest UK and World news from the BBC.

**Website:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

- **Economist**

An absolute **must** for keeping up-to-date with current ideas and trends in economics- and impact on political decisions. Sign up to read 5 free articles every month. Print version of current copy of *The Economist* available in the Learning Centre library

**Website:** <http://www.economist.com/>

- **European Newsstream**

Covers local and regional newspapers throughout Europe; includes *The Guardian, Independent, Times* and *Financial Times*. Great for up-to-date information. Details on how to use in **Simple guide 25**.

Access with your **Open Athens** details – see page 2

## 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](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/>



**Official  
government  
websites are useful  
for an overview of  
how institutions  
work**

## Useful Websites: Political Discussion & Round-Ups

- **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 centre 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/>

- **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/>

- **Tutor2U**

Offers reference material for students and teachers of politics: read/study notes, watch presentations and videos and get advice about exam technique.

**Website:** <https://www.tutor2u.net/politics/topics>

## Books

Your teacher will recommend key books that you should read as part of your studies: most of these should be available in the Learning Centre. To find books you need to search using the **Library Catalogue**.

The catalogue is on 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 library shelf as all books in the Learning Centre are organised in Dewey number order. The Dewey number for Politics is **320**

Details on how to use in ***Guide 4 Finding a Book in the Learning Centre***

## Further Research

For more advanced research, use **Subject Gateways** that contain web resources that have been evaluated and quality checked by experts.

Try these:

### Subject Gateways

- **CORE (CO)nnecting 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’ e journals in the arts and humanities. Provides a useful list of the journals included.

**Website:** <http://www.jurn.org/>

**Manchester Central  
Library has access to  
many online journals,  
via its *Access to  
Research* system. Ask  
the *Learning Centre*  
staff about access to  
the *Central library***

