

Explore the Library

In this third podcast in the series, we'll be exploring your library a little further and talking about some other ways to find relevant resources, other than by browsing the shelves or by using Library Search.

We'll be exploring two key features of the library landscape. Firstly, Library Subject Guides, and secondly, Online Resource Lists. These are both very important access points for discovering resources from our collections in order to support your assignment research. We will also find out about another feature of your new library environment when we meet one of our Academic Liaison Librarians. We'll talk to Rosie about Subject Guides and Resource Lists as well as asking her about the role of the Academic Liaison Librarian and find out about the support the team provides to students.

But before we meet Rosie, let's tell you a little bit about our Subject Guides. The Academic Liaison Librarians have created Subject Guides which relate to the courses taught at Falmouth. These have links to specialist resources and support relevant to that subject. Exeter students can also find subject Libguides via the Exeter Library website.

Subject Guides can be useful starting points for exploring collections relevant to your path of study. Remember that there may be more than one guide that relates to your studies. And when you visit one, you will find related guides listed alongside. To find the Falmouth Subject Guides, you simply go to the main library website at www.library.fxplus.ac.uk select Subject Guides on the homepage. The Exeter guides are signposted from this page too. On the Subject Guides main page you'll find a menu of subjects from which to choose and also a video to help familiarize you with the guides.

Once you enter a Subject Guide, you'll see a menu of resources as well as the picture of your Academic Liaison Librarian with a link to their email. There are also links on the right hand side to access resources and support. You'll notice that you can still access library search at the top of the screen, but the main subject menu takes you to specialist resources including journal databases, journal titles for your subjects, as well as links to reference and multimedia sources. You may also find help materials to support resources and research in your subject.

It's important to familiarize yourself with the subject guides that are relevant to you. So do take time to explore these early on before you have any assignment deadlines looming.

Another key landmark in the library landscape, and another important access point for relevant resources will be your Resource Lists. These are managed by the library but can be found on your virtual learning environment. So Falmouth students can find their resource lists on the learning space, and Exeter students can find resource lists on LE.

These Resource Lists are usually created by teaching staff, and may include a variety of resources, including books, chapters, journal articles, and a range of multimedia content. We check the resources included to see if we have access to them in our collection, and buy essential titles where possible. This means that you can often link directly to a resource if it's electronic, but if it's in print, you'll be directed to the holdings information about a resource so that you can find it in the library.

It makes accessing and engaging with your key reading for your modules so much easier than a static list of resources. Academic Staff sometimes organize resources in weekly or themed groupings too so that you can find relevant and timely content much more easily. Now, as promised, we will talk to Rosie Enys, who's the Academic Liaison Librarian in the Academy of Music and Theatre Arts.

Hi Rosie, thanks for agreeing to be interviewed today. Firstly, could you tell us a bit about your role? What is an Academic Liaison Librarian?

OK, your Academic Liaison Librarian is your point of contact for the library. Each course has one and it will be useful to know who yours is. We aim to provide a sort of a bridge between the practice of your subject and the practice of research, so helping you explore your subject through the library's physical and digital collections, we work with your academics and other teams within the library so that you can have the access that you need to resources to inspire your creative practice, and also inform your intellectual engagement with your subject.

So perhaps you could also tell us a little bit about the support that you and your colleagues offer to students? What sort of support can you offer?

Your Academic Liaison Librarian is here to support you through all the stages of your degree and we're easily contactable by email or phone. All that information is on the library website. We offer regular - what we call – Info-Perches in the library, and these are drop in sessions, where a librarian and a member of the Academic Skills team are on hand to help you with research, writing, referencing that kind of thing.

You don't need an appointment for that at all?

You don't need an appointment, you just turn up.

So yes, are there any other ways that you would provide support for students?

Yes! Subject Guides are a really important part of the library website. So these will help you identify the resources that are really useful and relevant for your subjects. So do have a look at those. We also work with your academics to deliver sessions in your modules. So trying to identify when it's going to be most useful for you to have more information about researching your subject.

So hopefully students will see you at some stage or an Academic Liaison Librarian in one of their sessions. And if you had any top tips for new students starting University now, what advice might you offer?

I think the first top tip has got to be to find out who your Librarian is. That's on the subject guides, our names and contact details are there. Secondly, just feed your curiosity for your subject. You're here because you're passionate about your subject. So immerse yourself in the library collections, and find out a bit more about what's on offer through those Subject Guides.

So thinking about Subject Guides, would you be able to talk us through some of the resources you've included in your own subject pages and the value of those two new students?

Yeah, I'll give you a flavour of what's on the music and sound subject guides. One of the resources is called Rock's Back Pages, which is a fantastic resource for music journalism. There's some really great titles in there, an archive of titles that include NME, Melody Maker, Rolling Stone, and there's a whole load more, including audio interviews with artists. In that same subject guide we've also got Bloomsbury Popular Music for browsing for artists, albums, music, eras, and music genres across the globe. There's also an Encyclopaedia in there. And the other things that are quite popular are the timelines and the world map, so you get some contextual information.

In the academic liaison team, you oversee the promotion and the development of the TALIS resource lists, which we've been talking about in this podcast. Could you tell us a little bit about how you think they're useful to students?

These are the lists that you will see embedded in the modules in the learning space. So every module has got a TALIS resource list that links you to the resources that are available for your module. The benefit for you as a student is that it links you directly to the resource. So this could be a digitized chapter of a book, an ebook or journal article, or video or whatever, straight from the learning space, the list will link you directly to the resource you need.

Thanks, Rosie. And could you share with us your favourite part of the library? Part of the space or the collection?

It's a difficult question to answer. But I quite like the journals area. I like to flick through the latest journals and magazines, see what interesting ideas and projects and events are happening. There's also, at the moment, we've got a small selection of new magazine titles, just one offs that show what's trending. So that's particularly interesting to me.

Thanks, Rosie. Before we finish this, is there anything else you'd like to share with students?

Well, there's quite a lot, but keeping it fairly short. I want to emphasize that we have the most amazing video collection here that's growing all the time. It's both a physical collection of old VHS DVDs and bluray, but it's also a very rich and growing streaming collection. And to supplement this we have access to something called Box of Broadcasts. And it's worth knowing about because once you sign up, you don't need a TV licence while you're at Uni because it has all UK TV and radio channels and an archive of broadcast programs. And all of this is on the library website and links to Bob are in all the subject guides.

Thanks Rosie. So in today's podcast, we have introduced you to three new weapons to add to your research armoury. Number one was your library Subject Guide, number two was your module resource lists and number three, your trusty Academic Liaison Librarian.

Remember, though, that the first two entry points are for discovery and exploration, and we hope that as you become more confident in your approach to research, you will be able to use a range of tools and approaches to help you on your journeys of discovery.