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Unit 1

ENGLISH STUDIES DATABASES AND ONLINE LIBRARIES



Biblioteca Central UNED Madrid (Source: Book authors).

1.1. ACTIVATING PRIOR KNOWLEDGE



This unit focuses on learning how to use general and specialised bibliographic databases and e- journals, in order to obtain information for present and future work or research. When looking for bibliographic resources online, for instance those from UNED library, you should be able to access most of them, but bear in mind that no library is subscribed to every single bibliographic resource. Before you start reading the contents in this unit, try to answer these questions:

- Do you know what a database is?
- Have you ever used a database to search for information?
- Have you ever read an article in its electronic version?

1.2. LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES



This unit focuses on explaining how to plan well-documented research with the help of technology. By the end of this unit, you will be able to:

- search for the information that you need and know where to find it.
- use with confidence the databases that you need.
- find the exact location of an e-article.
- save your own research findings and get alerts of related news.

1.3. INTRODUCTION



The Digital Competence Framework for Citizens (DigComp) is a European Union initiative which was established in 2013 by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) in partnership with stakeholders from across Europe (Carretero, Vuorikari & Punie, 2017). It is a reference framework that outlines the

key competences necessary for citizens to thrive in a digital society, recognising the growing importance of digital technologies in modern society and the need for individuals to possess the skills and competences necessary to fully participate in a digital world.

The DigComp identifies **five key areas of digital competence** (Vuokari, Kluzer & Punie, 2022): 1) Information and data literacy: the ability to find, evaluate, and manage digital information and data effectively and efficiently; 2) Communication and collaboration: the ability to communicate and collaborate with others using digital technologies; 3) Digital content creation: the ability to create and edit digital content using various tools and media formats; 4) Safety: the ability to protect personal data and devices and navigate safely in the digital environment; and 5) Problem-solving: the ability to identify, analyse, and solve problems using digital technologies. The initial part of this book focuses on the first digital competence: the ability to search, evaluate and manage information depending on our needs - in this case in the field of English Studies.

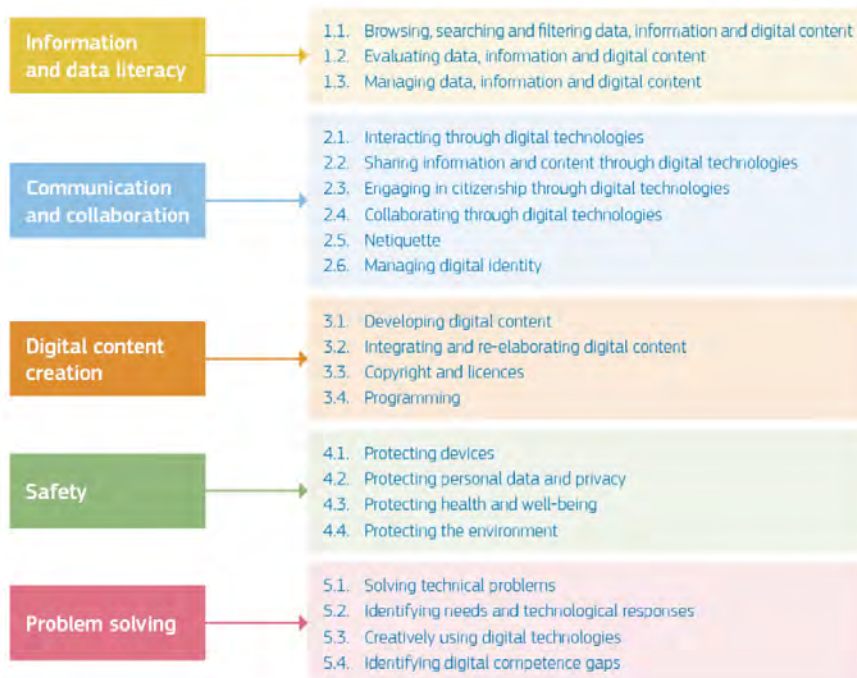


Figure 1. The DigComp conceptual reference model (Vuokari, Kluzer & Punie, 2022).

This unit will deal with the first two of these actions (searching and evaluating information), and the third one (managing information) will be studied in the next unit. This competence will be crucial when you attempt your first academic assignments, or your end of degree dissertation. You will learn how to locate the information you need from reliable resources which are relevant to your field of study.

1.4. CONTENTS

All sorts of new tools for gathering resources can be found in the modern university library. We will look at each of them independently, providing you with a clearer idea of what each tool can offer and how best to exploit it for our purposes. We will show differing databases connected to our area of knowledge, ranging from the specific to the general, enabling you to effectively search for information. Among the first tasks of any researcher are checking a database or an electronic journal provider.

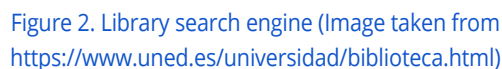
1.4.1. INFORMATION LITERACY

The concept of Information Literacy has been defined in different ways, mainly conditioned by the technological context of the moment. If we compare the way we conduct research nowadays with the methods used twenty years ago, the role played by technology and digitalisation in the past few years becomes clear. In 1989, the American Library Association (ALA) defined IL (Information Literacy) as a skill or an ability to “recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information”. A few decades later, the same concept is described as “the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning”. The latter definition includes two key elements which all researchers and academics should bear in mind: “ethics” and “communities”. Our academic behaviour must be ethical, and we must state the source of our findings (e.g., essays), and



FOR UNED STUDENTS: Log in to Campus UNED and visit [our library](#). Think of your favourite subject and try to do a related search. Consider looking up a [database](#) first, and then narrowing your search to a journal, book (paper or e-book), report, or any other type of source. Look at some of the links connected to your studies (end of degree dissertation, Plagiarism, types of loans, etc.)

N.B: If you are not a UNED student, try to do this activity using any other online library that has free access to its database.



There are several library locations at UNED (Sede Central). These are: 1) Biblioteca Central: Senda del Rey/Obispo Trejo (Humanities, Science, Law, Economics), and 2) Biblioteca Campus Norte: Juan del Rosal (Education, Engineering, Psychology). Although they all share the same e-resources, each building keeps its own hard copies of books according to the degrees they oversee, as well as other topics of interest. If you visit these buildings with your electronic device, do not forget to access the internet via Eduroam, a special configuration that you need to set up on your device using your Campus UNED password. If you are accessing the e-resources from the campus (or any other device connected from your local centre) you will have full, direct access to the subscribed materials. If you are accessing them from home or outside the campus, you will first need to login at Campus UNED and use the links created for this purpose. Remember that our library holds training courses throughout the year and that most are live streamed on the Internet. Please visit the library website for more information.

1.4.1.1. Databases & bibliographic platforms

Just as the evolution of technology has led to changes in the concept of information literacy, the meaning of 'bibliographic database' has changed as well. We have selected a [Wikipedia definition](#):

A **bibliographic database** is a database of bibliographic records , an organised digital collection of references to published literature, including journals and newspaper articles, conference proceedings, reports, government and legal publications, patents, books, etc.

Although at the very beginning these databases provided information only about bibliographic references, nowadays they are integrated with journal providers and other bibliographical platforms so as to provide direct access to the full-text source that you need to consult (e-journal, thesis, e-book, etc.). In this way, you can visualise an article through two or even three of the platforms purchased by your library. These platforms can serve as databases as well, and it is often difficult to draw a distinction between the former and the latter. If you perform, for example, a search in the Modern Language Association (MLA)

International Bibliography or a library catalogue, they will show different content providers depending on the ones your institution subscribes to.

It is important to know that if you wish to read an electronic article, your University/Institution needs to be subscribed to the appropriate platform; otherwise, you will have to try your luck with another library. Sometimes you may find years that are “under embargo”, meaning that you cannot read articles published within a particular period of time. Everything depends on the contract and conditions signed by the library or institution. Most UNED-subscribed services are possible thanks to an agreement called the *Consortio Madroño*, signed by most all the Madrid-based public universities apart from Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM).

| Nombre | Materia | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| ABI/INFORM Global | Multidisciplinar |  |
| Academic Search Premier | Multidisciplinar |  |
| Country Profiles | Economía, política y empresas |  |
| Country Reports | Economía, política y empresas |  |
| e-ciencia | Multidisciplinar |  |
| EIAF Index to Film | Cinematografía |  |
| Google Académico | Multidisciplinar | |
| IEEE | Ingenierías, informática... |  |
| ISI Web of knowledge | Multidisciplinar | |
| JSTOR | Multidisciplinar |  |
| MathSciNet | Matemáticas |  |
| PAQ | Humanidades |  |
| PIQ | Humanidades | |
| Research Library (Antes PRL) | Multidisciplinar |  |
| RefWorks | – |  |
| Revistas OA a través de SCOAP3 | Física de partículas | |
| New Safari – O'Reilly for Higher Education | Tecnología y economía |  |
| Science Direct (libros y revistas) | Multidisciplinar |  |
| SpringerLink (libros y revistas) | Multidisciplinar |  |

Figure 3. Databases in *Consortio Madroño* (Image taken from <https://www.consorcio-madrono.es/en/recursos-electronicos/>)

As we see in Figure 3, several databases can be accessed through the *Consorcio Madroño* by all its members, but others can be accessed only by some universities. Depending on the particular field, you can find journals of interest in the field of English Studies in some of the databases shown below (MLA, JSTOR, ISI Web of Knowledge, etc.).

- **MLA (Modern Languages Association) publications**

Founded in 1883, the MLA is an association of professionals related to the field of languages and humanistic disciplines to promote the teaching of English Studies all around the world. You can read more about it here: <https://www.mla.org/About-Us/About-the-MLA/The-MLA-s-Mission>. The MLA is particularly well known thanks to its two databases:

MLA International Bibliography, which includes bibliographic references (books and articles) in the fields of linguistics, literature, culture and cinema. In the case of UNED, the MLA Bibliography is provided by ProQuest. For instance, if we type the word "Shakespeare", the engine will retrieve almost 50,000 results, which means that we need to refine our search, filtering by the sort of work (book, journal, proceeding, etc.), or the year of publication or language. Note that if your institution does not subscribe to a given publication, no "full-text" link will appear in your search results. This will mean that you cannot read the whole article, but only the abstract.

Figure 4. MLA International bibliography interface (Image taken from <https://search.ebscohost.com/?authtype=cookie,ip,uid>)

MLA Directory of Periodicals, a directory with information about the journals indexed in the bibliography. This is more useful for academics wishing to obtain information about a journal related to this field (language, subscription, frequency, editors, website, etc.). Being included in this list can be evidence of “quality”. You can read more about it here: <https://www.mla.org/Publications/>

[MLA-International-Bibliography/About-the-MLA-International-Bibliography/MLA-Directory-of-Periodicals](#) . Once logged in through your institution, you can locate publications by performing a title or subject search:

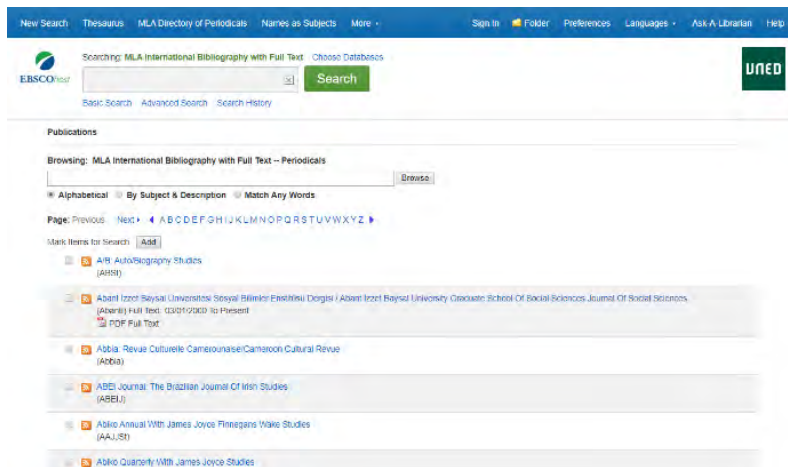


Figure 5. MLA Directory of periodical interface (Image taken from <https://search.ebscohost.com/?authtype=cookie,ip,uid>)

Apart from being famous for its databases, MLA is also a guide to academic style, one of the most widely used in English Literature: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html . Others, like the APA, are preferred when dealing with topics related to education and the social sciences, and also Applied Linguistics https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa6_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

- **ERIC (Education Resources Information Center)**

This is the most important database dealing with Education and can be freely accessed by independent researchers using their own account. However, many institutions, including UNED, access it through the EBSCO or ProQuest platforms. It can also be considered a repository, since several publications are available in full-text view. As a registered user, you can even submit your own publications. As you can see below, searches can be filtered by year, descriptor, education level, etc.

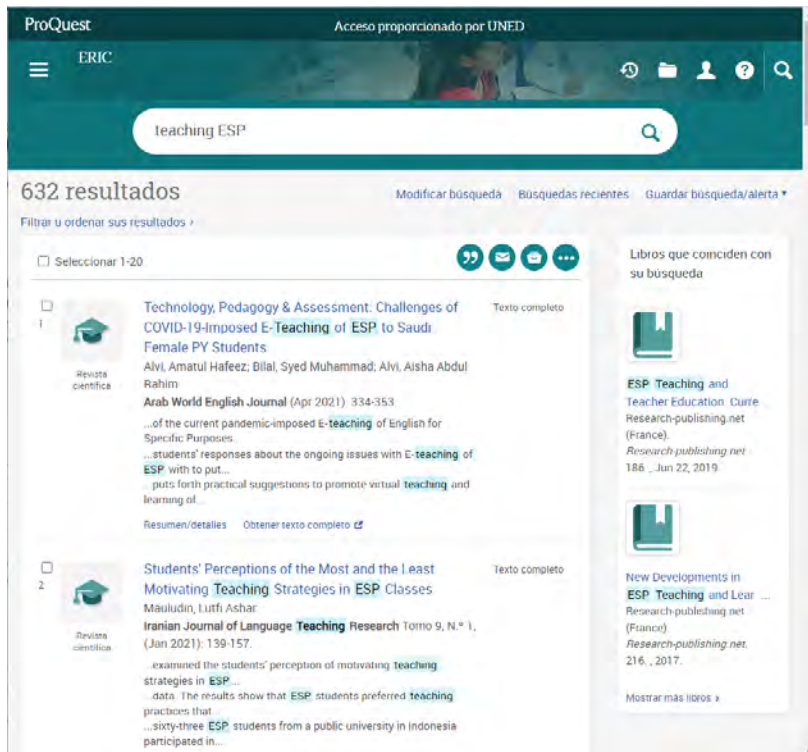


Figure 6. ERIC interface (Image taken from <https://www.proquest.com/?accountid=14609>)

• JSTOR

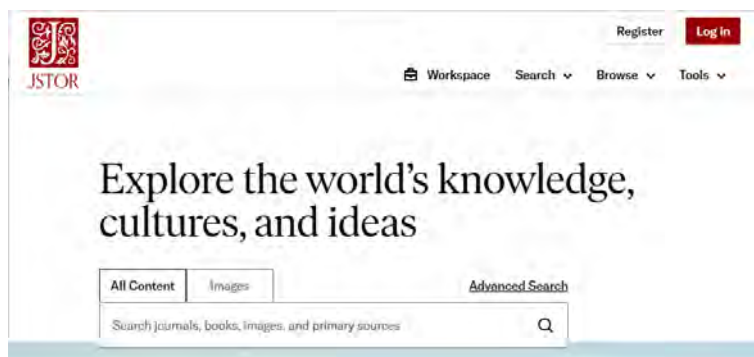


Figure 7. JSTOR interface (Image taken from <https://www.jstor.org/>)

Apart from providing content from e-books and journals related to Language Studies, among other topics, you will find primary resources in the form of digitalised manuscripts of historical documents. There is also a tool called “text analyser”, which scans an article to find other articles of interest related to the text itself. The image below shows one of the digitalised documents. Its reference can easily be saved, but the possibility of reading all the pages is restricted to individual subscriptions.

- **Literature Online (LION)**

LION contains a collection of full-text works in English dating from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present, including publications from American Literature and others. For full access you need to be logged into Campus UNED or your own institution. LION was first launched in 1996, and almost 30 years later, it is a reference in its field thanks to the quantity and the quality of its content. You should be able to find it in the list of databases provided by UNED library: <https://uned.libguides.com/az.php>



TIME TO PRACTICE!

Activity 1. 2 Working with LION

Perform a basic search for any author included in the contents of the Literature subjects from your degree in English Studies. What sort of sources and documents have you found? Do you think this is a useful tool? Why?

- **Other databases not subscribed to by UNED**

Linguistics Collection

Full coverage of phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics and more. Apart from articles and other electronic resources, you can find full-text dissertations which cover the areas mentioned before.

Linguistics Abstracts Online

This is a database of linguistics abstracts containing more than 72,000 abstracts drawn from more than 600 specialised journals.

ABSTRACTING & INDEXING DATABASE

Linguistics Abstracts Online

This bibliographic database provides high-quality cover-to-cover indexing and abstracts for journals encompassing the broad spectrum of linguistics and language study. It offers thousands of records with subject headings from EBSCO's robust thesaurus, curated by subject matter experts.

Subjects Include

- Applied linguistics
- Communication
- Communication disorders
- Computational linguistics
- Computer assisted language learning
- Deaf studies and education
- Dyslexia
- English language teaching
- Fluency disorders
- Language and cognition
- Language and computers
- Language and cultures
- Language and dialogue
- Language and literature
- Language and politics
- Memory and language
- Phonetics and phonology
- Psychology
- Semantics
- Sign Language
- Speech and hearing
- Speech pathology

Content includes:

770 active indexed and abstracted journals

760 active peer-reviewed indexed and abstracted journals

Title List:
Coverage: [Excel](#) | [HTML](#)

[Request pricing](#)

[Request trial](#)

Linguistics Abstracts Online covers numerous fields related to synchronic approaches to linguistics, such as applied and computational linguistics, phonetics and phonology, deaf studies and education, psychology, communication, and speech pathology, among others.

— Charleston Advisor

Figure 8. Linguistic abstracts online interface (Image taken from <https://www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/linguistics-abstracts-online>)

Although UNED is not subscribed to this resource, it has acquired a similar one, Oxford Bibliographies in Linguistics, where you will find bibliographies and comments on them related to specific topics included in the field of Linguistics. You can see how this works in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1myXLJZGPwM>:

America: History and Life

This database belongs to EBSCO and provides access to journals relating to the history of the United States of America from 1955 to the present. A total of 1800 titles are shown in the lists, which can be seen by following this link: <https://www.ebsco.com/m/ee/Marketing/titleLists/ahl-coverage.htm>

ABSTRACTING & INDEXING DATABASE
America: History and Life
 America: History and Life is the definitive index of literature covering the history and culture of the United States and Canada from prehistory to the present. Indexing hundreds of journals, it is an invaluable bibliographic database for history students.

Strengthen Exposure to Open Access Journals
 America: History and Life includes rigorous curation and indexing of open access (OA) journals, which has resulted in a growing collection of 168 active global OA journals. Once validated and certified for inclusion, these OA journals are treated with high-quality subject indexing and sophisticated, precise/accurate full-text linking.

NOTE: EBSCOhost databases and EBSCO Discovery Service **generate a lot more referrals for DOAJ than any other online platform.**

Searchable Cited References
 America: History and Life includes 456 journals with searchable cited references.

The Highest Quality Subject Indexing
 EBSCO has the premier and most highly regarded scholarly vocabularies curated by subject matter experts, covering all disciplines and major publishers.

Content includes:
1,610 active indexed and abstracted journals
1,421 active peer-reviewed indexed and abstracted journals

Title List:
 Coverage: **Excel** | **HTML**

Request pricing
Request trial

Figure 9. America: History and life interface (Image taken from <https://www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/america-history-and-life>)

Databases like this provide access to digitalised images of ancient texts from your own institution with the possibility of zooming in on images, printing some pages, reading works in detail, etc. Unfortunately, UNED is not subscribed, but you can try it for free by using the demo announced on its website or by locating an institution which does subscribe.

Early English books online (EEBO)

EEBO contains digital facsimile page images of works printed in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and British North America, as well as works in English from 1473-1700. It has access to full-text documents in several disciplines: Fine Arts, English Literature, Linguistics and History. It can be consulted through ProQuest via some institutions. This link supplies further information: <https://proquest.libguides.com/eebopqp>.

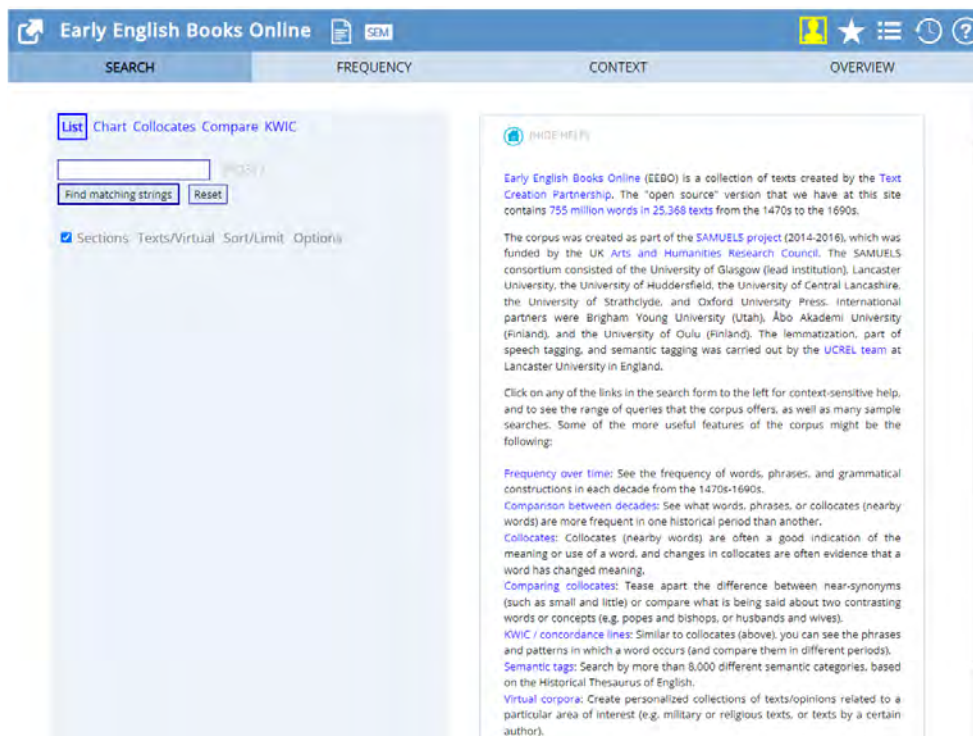


Figure 10. EEBO (Image taken from <https://www.english-corpora.org/>)

1.4.1.2. Generic bibliographic databases

- **Dialnet (UNED)**

Dialnet is a Spanish database developed by the University of La Rioja. It already has more than 2 million users and it is a key reference for most researchers and professors working at Spanish universities. Access to full-text versions of the entries depends on the involvement of your institution, though the possibility of borrowing a document from another institution is available. The following screenshot shows a list of journals included in Dialnet with full-text links (as long as you are logged in with an institution subscribed to the journal/article that you are searching for); this service is known as Dialnet Plus. Most of the publications linked to here are based in Spain, which means that, apart from those edited

by associations directly related to English Studies, they will mainly be written in Spanish.

The image below shows some English Studies publications included in the Dialnet database. If the publication is marked with *UNED* on the right, the full text is available through our library.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Comunicar: Revista científica iberoamericana de comunicación y educación | e-Dialnet | Latindex |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Contextos educativos: Revista de educación | e-Dialnet | Latindex |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cuadernos de información | e-Dialnet | Latindex | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cuadernos de turismo | e-Dialnet | Latindex |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dedica. Revista de Educação e Humanidades | e-Dialnet | Latindex | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Didáctica (Lengua y literatura) | e-Revista | Latindex | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Digital Education Review | e-Dialnet | Latindex | |

Figure 11. English Studies publication in Dialnet database (Image taken from <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/>)

If you want to subscribe to some of these journals, you need to sign up. Once logged in, click on “Revistas”, selecting your topic/s and choose those that interest you:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Bitácora: Revista de la Facultad de Lenguas | | |
| | Bitarte: Revista cuatrimestral de humanidades | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Boletín A.R.G.H. (Asociación Riojana de Genealogía y Heráldica) | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Boletín de la Biblioteca de Menéndez Pelayo | Latindex |  |
| | Boletín de la Escuela de Ciencias Antropológicas de la Universidad de Yucatán | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Boletín de la Institución Libre de Enseñanza | Latindex |  |

Figure 12. “Revistas” section in Dialnet database (Image taken from <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/>)

Once you select the journals, of there will be no confirmation. Just click on “subscriptions” to check that you have successfully subscribed to the selected journals.



TIME TO PRACTICE!

Activity 1.3 Working with Dialnet

Create an account with Dialnet (<https://dialnet.unirioja.es>) and subscribe to 3 publications related to a topic that interests you. Try to read some full-text articles and reflect on your experience. Does it have a user-friendly interface? Was it easy to find authors or articles?

EBSCO

EBSCO, the world's other leading information and publishing company along with Science Direct, will lead you to many other databases, including European Views of the Americas: 1493 to 1750, Teacher Reference Center and e-books like the EBSCO eClassics Collection. Below we have an example of one of the results retrieved when searching for *Information Literacy* in a database called *Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts*. Take into account that in this case, there will be no full-text versions: only the abstract is available. Once you have that information, you will need to look for the full article in the library catalogue.

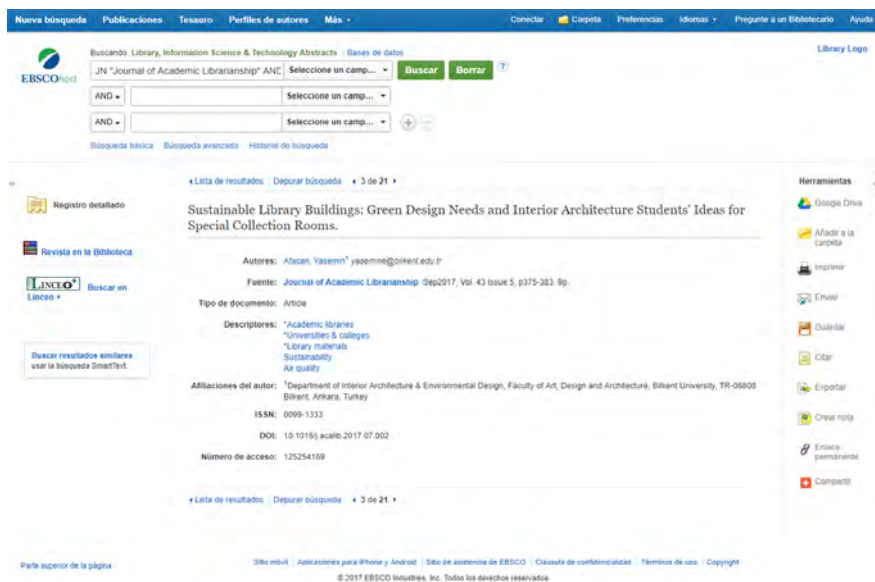


Figure 13. EBSCO interface (Image taken from <https://www.ebsco.com/es>)

As seen above, there is a menu on the right showing all the actions you can take with the selected bibliographical reference - upload to your Google Drive, save in a folder, print or even share it.

REBIUN

Databases like the ones described above must be purchased by our institutions. Finding all of them within the same university is unusual, which is why, in the past, you needed to travel to another location to look for the desired database or paper books. Nowadays there are easier solutions to cover these needs, for example, borrowing books from other university libraries if they are in paper format.

REBIUN <https://www.rebiun.org/> is a collective catalogue, offered by most Spanish University Libraries, where you can find the exact location of a resource. The image below shows the location of a database which cannot be found at UNED, *Linguistics Abstracts Online*. It says that you can access it from the Universities of Coruña and Seville.

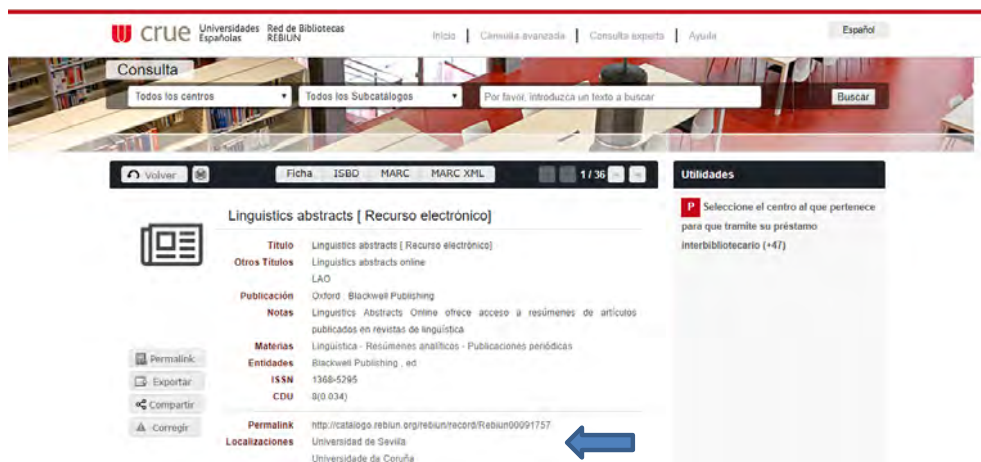


Figure 14. Search in REBIUN (Image taken from <https://rebiun.baratz.es/rebiun/>).

• The UNED Library platform

During the academic year 2019-20, Consorcio Madroño and all the libraries included in it, migrated from Linceo + (Summon technology) to ExLibris (<https://>