The Library Catalogue

All of the Library’s stock (books, ebooks, journals, ejournals and other collections) is listed on the Library Catalogue, YorSearch [http://yorsearch.york.ac.uk](http://yorsearch.york.ac.uk). YorSearch is installed on stand-alone terminals in the Library, and is linked to the University’s Student home page.

Check that you understand how to use the Library Catalogue to find the location of a known book. Ensure that you are familiar with the Key Texts Collection online booking system. Ask Library staff if you have any questions, and see the Getting help section at the end of this handout for sources of help.

Exercise 1: Using the YorSearch Library Catalogue to find books on a subject

You are likely to want to identify all the books in the Library’s collections which are relevant to a subject of your choice. It is possible to use the search options on the Library Catalogue to define quite precisely the nature of the material you are looking for.

For practice, imagine that you want to find all the books in the Library on the subject of the sociology of education, specifically inequalities in higher education relating to race/ethnicity.

1. Start from the University of York homepage [www.york.ac.uk](http://www.york.ac.uk), and follow the links to YorSearch: Current students | Library catalogue.

2. Enter the keywords “higher education” race and click the Search button. Enclosing words in double quotes (“like this”) searches for books that contain two or more words next to each other; use double quotes to search for a phrase.
   (Note that the Library Catalogue is not case-sensitive).
3. Identify the item: *Degrees of choice: class, race, gender and higher education* by Diane Reay, Miriam David & Stephen Ball. Then click on Details to view the subject headings (descriptors) for this item.

4. Each subject heading acts as a link to other records on the Library Catalogue which relate to the same subject. Click on the Subject Universities and colleges -- Sociological aspects.

5. How many books in the Library’s collections have been indexed with this heading?

Click on the Get It link to find out where an item is in the Library, how many copies there are, if items are out on loan and when they are due for return.

If you have any questions about using the Library Catalogue, refer to the sources of help at the end of this handout.