Key bibliographical tools for Historians

Research students' Skills Toolkit

Bibliographical databases are one of the best tools for **locating journal articles, book reviews, collections of essays and conference proceedings** even if you don't know the authors or article.

In this task you can explore two of the most important history ones: **Historical Abstracts** and/or **Bibliography of British and Irish History**.

You will **search for an article by subject,** locate the **full-text** in the Oxford library system and learn how to **save the citations**.

Using Historical Abstracts

↳ Go to the SOLO homepage (http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

↳ Click Databases A-Z (under Useful Links on the right), and find *Historical Abstracts*. Alternatively, you can search SOLO for the title of the database.
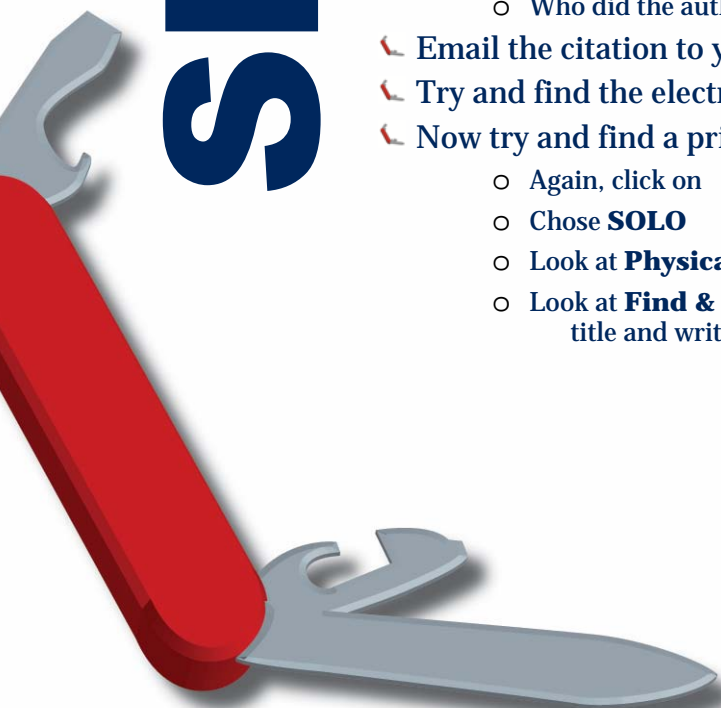
> Historical Abstracts indexes journal publications since 1954 on the history of the world from 1450 to the present (excluding the United States and Canada, which are covered in *America: History and Life*). Includes dissertations and some book reviews.

↳ Connect to Historical Abstracts.

↳ Search for articles on the subject of *poor law* in the 19th century

- o Type **poor law** in the first search box
- o Select **Subject Terms** as the search field.

	SU Subject Terms ▾	Search

- o **Limit** the historical period to the 19th century.

> **Historical Period**
> Year:
>
> Era ▾
> to Year:
>
> Era ▾
> example: 400 b.c.e. to 200 c.e.

↳ Scroll to find the following article: Filtness, David. 'Poverty's Policeman'

- o In which journal was it published?
- o Who did the author research?

↳ Email the citation to yourself

↳ Try and find the electronic full-text [Find it Ⓖ Oxford]

↳ Now try and find a printed copy via SOLO.

- o Again, click on [Find it Ⓖ Oxford]
- o Chose **SOLO**
- o Look at **Physical Resources** only
- o Look at **Find & Request** for information which library or reading room holds the title and write down where you might go to access it.

Using Bibliography of British & Irish History

⌐ From the SOLO homepage, go to Databases A-Z and find *Bibliography of British & Irish History*. Alternatively, you can search SOLO for the title of the database.
(note: medievalists could also try the *International Medieval Bibliography*)

> BBIH is a comprehensive bibliography to historical writing about the history of Britain, Ireland, and relations with the empire and Commonwealth from 55BC to the present. Indexes articles, books, essays published since 1901.

> Only has license for 3 concurrent users. If you can't access it, try again later.

⌐ Connect to BBIH

  o Click on **Advanced Search**.

⌐ Search for articles published by Richard Sharpe

  o How many are there in total?

⌐ Refine the search to find only articles published since 2010 and look at the full display

  o Click **Refine Search**.

  o In the search form, limit the search to publications after 2010.

  o Of the remaining articles see if the article 'Iona in 1771' is available electronically.


⌐ Email the references to yourself

  o Select any or all articles for emailing.

  o Click on **Export**.

  o Select **email** as the method of export.

  o Enter your email address and chose output format.

⌐ Browse the Subject Tree in Advanced Search

| Subject tree | All Subjects | ▤ |

  o Return to **Advanced Search**.

  o Click on **All Subjects** to the right of the **Subject tree** field.

  o Select any category and drill your way down as far as you like.

  o Select a subject of your choice and insert it in your search form.

  o Complete the search and evaluate the results.

Subject tree ❓   ⯈ **Insert/Close**

Relation: ⦿ OR   ◯ AND   [_____] [Search in tree]

Tick a checkbox to select a term, or click on the term to expand the tree. Click **Insert/Close** to add your selection to the search form.

General	Social life and conditions	Social conditions	Kinship	Courtship
Historiographical and methodological	Social structure	Social life and conduct	Childhood	Settlements, marri
Demographic and environmental history	Social and cultural identity	Family and life-cycle	Adolescence	Clerical marriage
Social history	Rural society	Domestic and private life	Marriage	Royal marriages
Medical history and health	Urban society	Organization of time	Parenthood	Divorce
Economic history	Social provision	Leisure and sport	Stepfamilies	Marital law
Technology		Life-saving and preservation	Illegitimacy	Marriage, irregular
Media and communication			Incest	Marriage fines
Intellectual, cultural and artistic history			Women, single	Celibacy
Social and cultural identity			Widowhood	Bigamy
Religious history			Old age	Polygamy
Political, administrative and legal history			Death	
Military history			Personal names	
Foreign affairs			Domestic violence	
Imperial and Commonwealth			Family law	
Other major themes			Settlements, family	
			Objects and practices associated with life-cycle	