



Library Resources for **Biological Sciences**

Getting started

Go to the Queen Mary University of London Library website to find out about Library services, how to manage your Library account and how to find your way around our collections. The web address is:

<http://www.library.qmul.ac.uk/>

Your subject

The Library website has a subject support section for Biological Sciences; it includes information about books, journals, databases and other relevant web-based resources:

<http://www.library.qmul.ac.uk/subject/biology>

Library Catalogue

The Library Catalogue can be used to search for books, journals and other library materials. You can search the catalogue at one of the dedicated terminals in the Library or via the Internet at:

<http://whatsinthe.library.qmul.ac.uk/>

You can also use the **Self-Service** option to check which books you have out on loan, to renew your loans and to reserve books that are on loan to someone else.

Books

To find a particular book, one, for example, from a module reading list, you can search for the author and/or title (e.g. Futuyma *Evolutionary Biology*) using the **Library Catalogue**, and confirm the book's **shelfmark** (in this case QH 366 FUT). The shelfmark is an identifying tag located on a book's spine, and enables you to locate the book on the shelves. Books are shelved in alpha-numeric order.

The **Teaching Collection** contains books that are in high demand, including those listed as essential reading on module reading lists; the collection is located on the **Ground Floor** of the Mile End Library.

The **Biological Sciences Collection** is located within the **QH–QR** shelfmark range on the **1st Floor** of the Mile End Library. You may need to consult other subject collections, such as:

- QD Chemistry (1st Floor)
- R Medicine (1st Floor)
- QP Physiology and Biochemistry (1st Floor)

A number of **electronic books** covering topics related to Biological Sciences are available online from any location via the Library Catalogue. Various science reference books are available via *Oxford Reference Online*.

The **Science Reference Collection** contains scientific and technical reference books, subject and translating dictionaries, encyclopedias (including the *Handbook of Plant Science*), handbooks and standards, and is located on the **1st Floor** of the Mile End Library.

The **Study Skills Collection** contains books that deal with writing good quality notes and essays, carrying out research and passing exams, as well as English language skills; the collection is located within the **Teaching Collection** on the **Ground Floor** of the Mile End Library.

Journals

Scientific journals, such as *Nature* and *Advances in Marine Biology*, are available in print and in electronic formats. They are a very good source of information about current research.

Our **electronic journals** collection of more than 16,000 titles can be accessed online from any location. To check which titles we subscribe to, and access them, go to our **A–Z list of e-journals**:

<http://metalib.library.qmul.ac.uk/V?func=find-ej-1>

The Library Catalogue and e-journals A–Z list *do not* include information about individual articles within journals – you need to use databases to carry out a *literature search* to locate relevant articles.

Databases

Databases are searchable indexes of high quality published literature, such as journal articles and conference proceedings. We subscribe to a number of databases relevant to the study of Biological Sciences, including:

- **PubMed** – indexes biomedical literature, including all data from the MEDLINE database from the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) at the US National Library of Medicine (NLM). MEDLINE is the premier database for journal articles in the health sciences.
- **Web of Science** – incorporates the *Science Citation Index*, covering more than 6,500 science journals (1970–present), and the *Conference Proceedings Citation Index Science* (1990–present).

These databases, along with others relevant to Biological Sciences, can be accessed via the Biological Sciences subject pages:

<http://www.library.qmul.ac.uk/subject/biology/databases>

Useful websites

The Internet provides access to a vast amount of information on all subjects. However, unlike the contents of books and journals, some of the information that you will find on the Internet can be unreliable or out of date, and so you need to choose carefully the sites you access. Please see the Biological Sciences Library subject pages for suggested useful websites:

<http://www.library.qmul.ac.uk/subject/biology/websites>

Other libraries

If the book or other material that you require is not available via the Library, you can try to obtain it from another library. General information about using other library services can be found at:

http://www.library.qmul.ac.uk/other_libraries

The Natural History Museum Library and Archives is one of the foremost institutions in the field, providing world coverage of the biological and earth sciences for researchers in molecular biology, biodiversity, systematics, taxonomy and the history of science. Access is by appointment only.

Further help

If you have any enquiries regarding general library matters, please ask a member of library staff at the Mile End Library **Help Zone**, or contact us via <http://www.library.qmul.ac.uk/contact>

If you have any subject-related enquiries, please contact **Martin Beeson**, the Academic Liaison Librarian for Biological Sciences (email: m.l.beeson@qmul.ac.uk).

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