Deciphering your Reading List

The material you’ll be expected to read for your lectures and supervisions in HPS will mostly be in one of two forms: books and journal articles. Either may be in print (“hard copy”) or in electronic form (to read online from a webpage or as a PDF). Sometimes both will be available and you can choose to read the print or e-version according to preference. Often though the text is only available in one form, so you need to be confident about finding both.

The process of finding books and journal articles is slightly different, so it’s important to be able to recognise which you’re looking for. The clue is in the form of the reference, which is structured slightly differently for books and articles.

**Book reference**

- **Author name**: Name usually inverted (surname given first) in alphabetical list
- **Title**: Book titles are usually given in italics to help them stand out
- **Edition statement**: Important if the version you’re to read is significant. If no edition statement, assume it’s the first edition.
- **Publisher**: Not always given on reading lists, but may be relevant if there’s more than one version available

**Journal article reference**

- **Author name**: As with books, articles may have multiple authors
- **Article title**: Title of the article given between single quotation marks
- **Journal title**: Journal title given in italics. May be abbreviated, as here. Often, you can work out what the full title is (History of Science), but if not the following online list may help: http://www.efm.leeds.ac.uk/~mark/ISlabbr/
- **Volume & issue no.**: Reference may give volume number only. Vol./Issue numbers may be in Arabic/Roman numerals
- **Date**: Publication date of relevant journal issue (in brackets)
- **Page numbers**: Show where in the volume/issue to find the article.

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1 Other media might include conference papers, official publications (government reports, etc.), and unpublished papers.
Book chapter reference

References to particular chapters in a book look similar to journal article references, but you need to recognise the book title from the reference:

- **Chapter author**: Adrian Johns
- **Chapter title (cf. article title)**: "Natural history as print culture"
- **Book author(s)/editor(s)**: N. Jardine, J.A. Secord and E.C. Spary (eds)
- **Book title**: Cultures of Natural History
- **Publisher**: Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1996
- **Page numbers**: 106-124

Publisher details, if given, are usually a good indication that it’s a book reference.

What next?

So, you’ve worked out what you’re being asked to read. How will you find it?

Books

**Classmarks** are the combinations of letters and numbers stuck onto the spine of a book to indicate where it sits on the shelf. Different classification schemes are used in different libraries across Cambridge, so their classmarks look different.

Whipple Library classmarks typically look like this: **P WAL 1** or **V3 JAR 1a/b**

Some HPS reading lists include Whipple Library classmarks. If that’s the case you can go straight to the shelf to find the book you need.

If your reading list doesn’t include classmarks, you’ll need to use **LibrarySearch** to find them.

LibrarySearch

LibrarySearch is an online tool for finding books, ebooks, journals and ejournals across all Cambridge libraries. You can use LibrarySearch from any computer or mobile phone with an internet connection. You don’t need to be in Cambridge to use LibrarySearch.

Access LibrarySearch from the Whipple Library homepage:

http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/library/

(This search box will automatically look for books at the Whipple. You can expand your search to ‘All libraries’ later if you need to find copies elsewhere.)
To find a book, type in one author surname and one or two words from the title (don’t use commas):

e.g. popper conjectures

In this case, there’s enough information on the first screen to give you the Whipple Library classmark, so you can go straight to the shelf to find the book.

Sometimes, if there are lots of copies in the University, you may need to open the full record (click anywhere that’s hyperlinked) to see the Whipple classmark.

Click through to the full record to

- Check if a book is available / on loan
- Find out which other libraries have a copy
What if the book I want isn’t on the shelf where I think it should be?

- Check on LibrarySearch if it’s on RESERVE, or in the OVERSIZE or REFERENCE collections
- Ask for RESERVE books at the Library desk
- The Reference and Oversize sections are on Level 1 – please ask staff if you need help finding them.

Finding ebooks

Ebooks provided through ebooks@cambridge will show up when you query LibrarySearch

e.g. **kuhn structure**

Look for Ebook icon at top of results list

To access the book, click text in ‘Online’ field,
e.g. ‘Connect to MyILibrary Resource’, or ‘Full text available from ACLS’:
Journals

Most of the journals you’ll need articles from are available online.

Use the ejournals A-Z list to find the journal title you need

- Quick link to ejournals A-Z from Whipple homepage

*Remember to search for the journal title and not the article title in the A-Z list.*

Select the package that covers the date range for the issue you need.

Can’t find the journal you need via the ejournals A-Z list?

- Search for the journal title (not the article title – see p. 1) in LibrarySearch to find a hard copy.

Any questions?

Call in to speak to a member of staff or email hpslib@hermes.cam.ac.uk any time and we’ll be happy to help!

Useful websites:

http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/library/
http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/libraries/