General tips for OpenAthens

OpenAthens is what we use to access electronic resources, i.e. electronic databases, electronic journals and electronic books.

Logging into OpenAthens

Logging into OpenAthens is simple – just use your Bolton network username and password and remember these tips:

- It’s very important that you start off at the library website as we use special links to link to our resources.
- Most of our resources are available off-campus as well as on-campus; those that are not are clearly marked.
- Remember that use of resources is restricted to support the academic activities of staff and students at the University of Bolton.

To login off-campus:

- In most case, the procedure for logging into electronic resources off-campus is exactly the same.
- For some resources, you will need to take a few extra steps to be able to login. You’ll need to look out for a link to “Athens login”, or similar.
- It’s important that you don’t enter your Bolton network username and password into any login boxes that you see.

Getting the most out of resources

Using electronic resources will make finding research much easier. However, it’s important to know how to use them. The following tips will help you get to grips with using electronic resources:

- Look at the subject resources pages
- Read subject workbooks
- Speak to your subject librarian
- Look at the help guides within the resources themselves
Troubleshooting

There are known problems with electronic resources with some Internet Service Providers (ISPs), in particular those using their own versions of Internet Explorer.

A number of technological problems that may be stopping your access:

- Make sure that cookies are enabled for your browser. In Internet Explorer, go to Tools—Internet Options—Privacy
- If you are using an ISP’s version of Internet Explorer, switch to the standard version of Internet Explorer.
- Try a different browser such as Firefox.
- Try altering your security settings. Remember to turn them back on again!
- If you bookmarked the resource before August 1 2008, you will need to go back to the library website and start from there.
- Some workplace networks may block access to electronic resources. If this is the case, you’ll need to contact IT support at your place of work.

UK Access Management Federation screen

If you see this screen, don’t panic. This screen is related to the change in the technology behind the logging in process; it only applies to a minority of our resources. If you see this screen, find the University of Bolton in the drop-down list and click “Select”. If you find this doesn’t work, chose “Eduserv Athens” from the drop-down list and click “Select”,

Registering to use resources

Some resources require personal registration before you can use them, even if you have already logged into OpenAthens. These resources include Digimap, ESDS, ScienceDirect (for off-campus use), Travel and Tourism Analyst and Zetoc Alerts. Other resources allow you to save search results and personalise your account.

Keeping up-to-date

If you want to keep up-to-date with developments in electronic resources in the library, then look at the Electronic Resources Blog. The blog provides details of new resources, trials, any access problems and details of other websites. Visit the blog at http://eresourcesbolton.wordpress.com/