10 things you need to know about... iDiscover

1. iDiscover, the main search platform for Cambridge library content, will show you listings for almost all of the printed and electronic library resources held at the University. With one search you can find e-books, online articles, printed books, journals, maps, music, and more.

2. The University holds millions of books and has access to millions more articles and sources online. Searching all of this together means that you will need to refine your iDiscover searches. To find the resource you need, try using the filters on the screen to search by the libraries you have access to, or by the author you need, etc. Use the “Available in the library” filter to cut out almost all electronic resources.

3. iDiscover uses responsive web design, which means it adapts well when used on mobile phones, tablets and computers.

4. iDiscover presents different levels of information about resources at different points and on different screens. You may have to ‘click through’ a few times to see the code you need to find a book, or the link to an online resource.

5. To find sources which you have information about, for example from a reading list, try to search with a few key words, for example, the author’s surname and a couple of distinctive words from the title.

6. iDiscover is not (quite) exhaustive. For some resources it may be necessary to use the ‘databases a-z’, linked at the top of the main iDiscover webpage.

7. iDiscover has lots of functionality designed to make your life easier! Look for the icons below, they can be used to export references, email information to yourself, and check your recent searches. Lots of other useful features exist, you’ll come across these when you start exploring iDiscover.

8. The icons to the left of results tell you what the resource is, or if there are multiple listings for a search result. Use these to help you find the things you need.

9. The iDiscover Advanced Search lets you combine things like title words and author names. This can be a useful way to search when you are looking for a specific resource.

10. Library staff can help! If you have any questions at all, about iDiscover or any other issues related to information, speak to a member of staff in one of the libraries you have access to. More information about iDiscover can be found here:

libguides.cam.ac.uk/idiscover