



Aston University  
Birmingham

# Supporting new PhD researchers at Aston University

USTLG meeting, 30/11/17



CUSTOMER  
SERVICE  
EXCELLENCE



®

# Supporting new PhD Researchers at Aston

- ▶ Structure and liaison
- ▶ Current support
  - ▶ Induction
  - ▶ Graduate School training programme
  - ▶ Library Services
- ▶ What else can we do?

# Aston University

- ▶ Engineering and Applied Science
- ▶ Aston Business School
- ▶ Life and Health Sciences
- ▶ Language and Social Sciences
- ▶ Aston Medical School



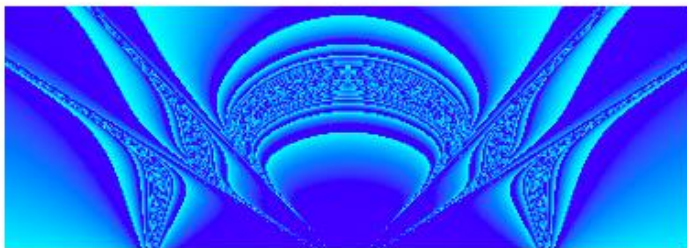
# EAS Research Themes



Bioenergy & Sustainability



Communications & Sensing



Complexity & Informatics

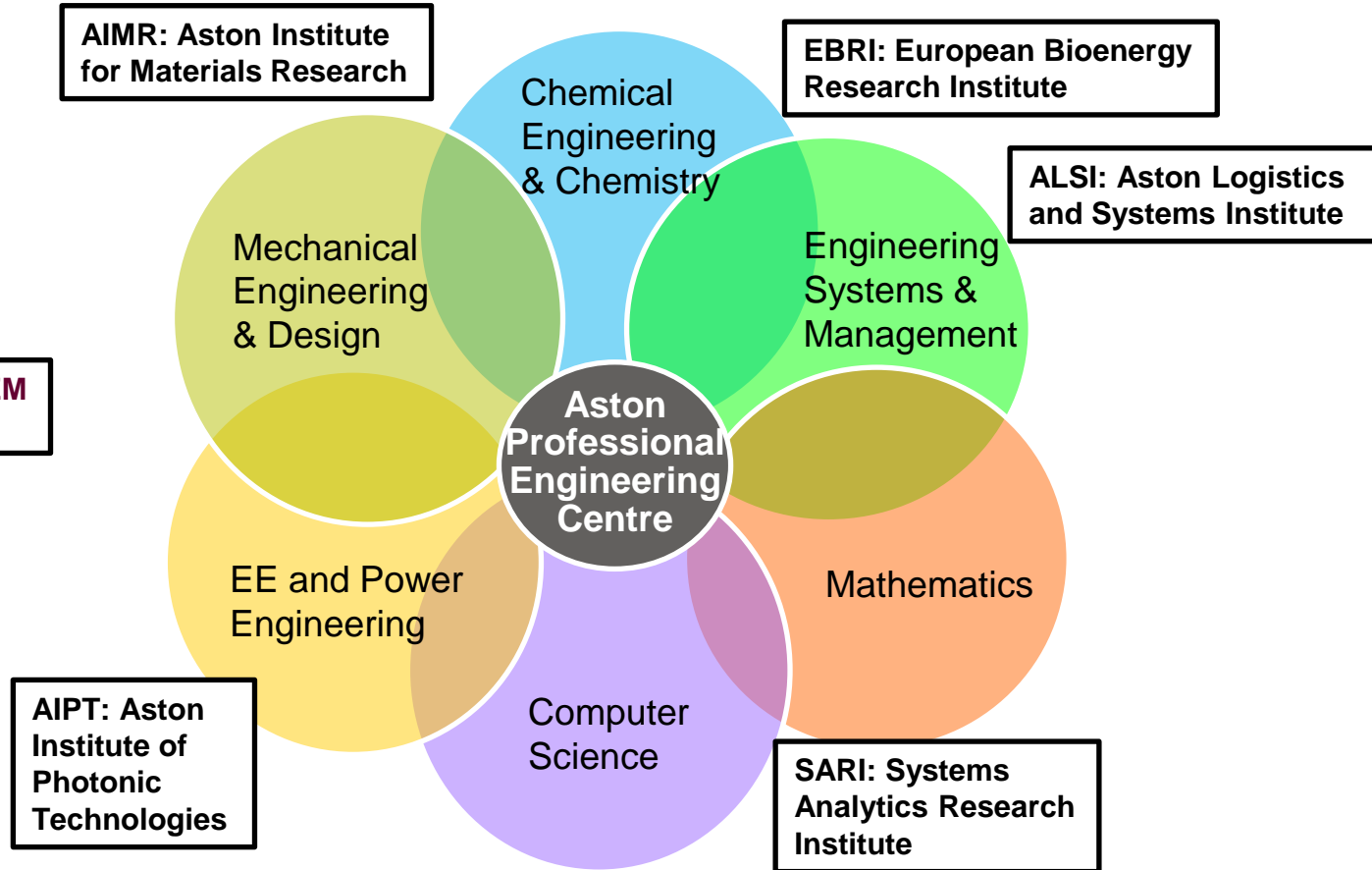


Healthcare Technologies

# Research Institutes

- ▶ Aston Institute of Photonic Technologies (AIPT)
- ▶ Aston Institute of Materials Research (AIMR)
- ▶ European Bioenergy Research Institute (EBRI)
- ▶ Systems Analytics Research Institute (SARI)
- ▶ Aston Logistics and Systems Institute (ALSI)
  
- ▶ **Aston STEM Education Centre**
  - ▶ Focal point for education, scholarship and research conducted at Aston
  - ▶ Encouraging and promoting greater understanding
  - ▶ Includes enhancement of STEM education for children, leading Scholarly Education Projects aimed at improving the learning experiences of University Students and mature professionals' lifelong learning

# EAS 2017 Organisational Structure



# PhD Research

- ▶ Photonics (Aston Institute of Photonic Technologies (AIPT))
- ▶ Adaptive Communication Networks (Adaptive Communication Networks Research Group (ACNRG))
- ▶ Bioenergy (European Bioenergy Research Institute (EBRI))
- ▶ Bio-Materials / Molecular Science (Polymer and Advanced Materials Research Group))
- ▶ Biomedical Engineering (Biomedical Engineering Research Group)
- ▶ Nanoscience (Nanoscience Research Group (NRG))
- ▶ Non-linearity and Complexity (Nonlinearity and Complexity Research Group (NCRG))
- ▶ Computer Science (Computer Science Research Group (CSRG))
- ▶ Power Electronics and Power System (PEPS Research Group)
- ▶ Project & Supply Chain Management (Project & Supply Chain Management Research Group)
- ▶ Engineering Education (Engineering Education Research Group)
- ▶ Sustainable Environment Research (Sustainable Environment Research Group (SERG))

# Academic groups

- ▶ Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry
- ▶ Computer Science
- ▶ Electrical, Electronic and Power Engineering
- ▶ Engineering Systems & Management
- ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Mechanical Engineering & Design





# Research starters

- ▶ 2016/17: 41 new PhD researchers
- ▶ 2017/18 target: 42 new PhD researchers
- ▶ Currently 170 PhD research students across EAS, including MSc by research



# Enriching the experience

- ▶ Connect with research students across EAS
- ▶ Aston University Graduate School
  - ▶ supportive environment for research students across the University with a view to widening and enriching their experience during their research studies
  - ▶ maintaining quality assurance of research studies and the development of training in core research and transferable skills thus enabling all research students to realise their full potential
- ▶ Aston Postgraduate Research Society (APRS)
  - ▶ founded in 2010 with the aim of encouraging collaboration between Schools and to improve social and academic experiences of research students across the University
  - ▶ funded through the University Graduate School and affiliated with the Students' Union
  - ▶ run by committee of research students who represent the society for their respective School

# Skills training and induction

- ▶ Skills training hours for:- PhD 90 hours and MPhil 60 hours, these include modules, workshop, meetings, seminar, conference
- ▶ **Presentation during Graduate School induction**
  - ▶ **Welcome to Library Services**
- ▶ **Information Literacy sessions run by Library Services**
  - ▶ **Navigating the scientific literature**
  - ▶ **Managing the scientific literature**

# EAS Research Student Induction and Skills Training Programme

- ▶ EAS PGR School Induction
- ▶ Ethics
- ▶ **Navigating the scientific literature**
- ▶ **Managing the scientific literature**
- ▶ Research skills and professional development (3 days)
- ▶ Health, safety and risk assessment


# Information Literacy

## Part 1: Navigating the scientific literature

- ▶ Literature searching
  - ▶ Accessing relevant databases via LibGuides
  - ▶ Keywords
  - ▶ Advanced search strategies (wildcards, Boolean, phrase, proximity)
  - ▶ Controlled vocabulary
  - ▶ Citation Searching
  - ▶ Grey literature

## SmartSearch

## AsktheLibrary




### Students

All the information and support you will need for the duration of your studies.

[Show Me](#)

### Staff

Request materials and maximise use of Library resources.

[Take me there](#)

## Open Access & Research Repositories

# Information Literacy

## Part 2: Managing the scientific literature

- ▶ Current Awareness
- ▶ Search alerts
  - ▶ journal TOCs, citation alerts, conference alters, RSS
- ▶ Social Media for Academic Purposes
  - ▶ Academic Blogs
  - ▶ Discussion Lists
- ▶ Bibliographic Management Tools
  - ▶ EndNote
  - ▶ Other tools



# Information Literacy

Where did you do your previous degree?

- at Aston
- at another UK University
- at a University outside of the UK



# Ongoing support

- ▶ Invitation to new PhD researchers
  - ▶ Available for 1 to 1 meetings as required
- ▶ Library Building
    - ▶ Opening Hours
    - ▶ Inter-library Loan
    - ▶ Sconul Access
  - ▶ Finding Article Research
    - ▶ Training and Support
    - ▶ Library SmartSearch
    - ▶ LibGuides for subject information
    - ▶ Ask the Library
  - ▶ Will they be teaching?
    - ▶ Reading Lists
    - ▶ Support via the IS Team
  - ▶ Publishing their research
    - ▶ Open Access
    - ▶ Research data
    - ▶ ORCiD





Email Me

#### Contact:

Aston University Library Services, 1st floor office.

Mature students support.

+ 44 (0)1212044512

### My Guides

<a href="#">Applied Physics</a> ⓘ	Nov 24, 2017	481
<a href="#">Chemical Engineering &amp; Applied Chemistry</a> ⓘ	Nov 24, 2017	2254
<a href="#">Computer Science</a> ⓘ	Nov 24, 2017	1101
<a href="#">Construction Management</a> ⓘ	Nov 24, 2017	970
<a href="#">Electrical, Electronic and Power Engineering</a> ⓘ	Nov 24, 2017	1426
<a href="#">Engineering Management</a> ⓘ	Nov 24, 2017	3147
<a href="#">Logistics and Transport</a> ⓘ	Nov 24, 2017	1357
<a href="#">Mathematics</a> ⓘ	Nov 24, 2017	450
<a href="#">Mechanical Engineering</a> ⓘ	Nov 24, 2017	525
<a href="#">Muscat University based students</a> ⓘ	Nov 24, 2017	81
<a href="#">Product Design</a> ⓘ	Nov 24, 2017	976
<a href="#">Researchers</a> ⓘ	Nov 24, 2017	603

Researchers'  
LibGuide

### My Subject Specialties

[Applied Physics](#)  
[Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry](#)  
[Chemistry](#)  
[Computer Science](#)  
[Construction Management](#)  
[Electrical, Electronic & Power Engineering](#)  
[Engineering and Applied Sciences](#)  
[Engineering Management](#)  
[Logistics & Transport](#)  
[Mathematics](#)  
[Mechanical Engineering](#)  
[Product Design](#)  
[Research](#)

# Researcher LibGuides

- ▶ Researcher
- ▶ Open Access
- ▶ Research Data Management
- ▶ Researcher Profiles
- ▶ Copyright
- ▶ Research Bites

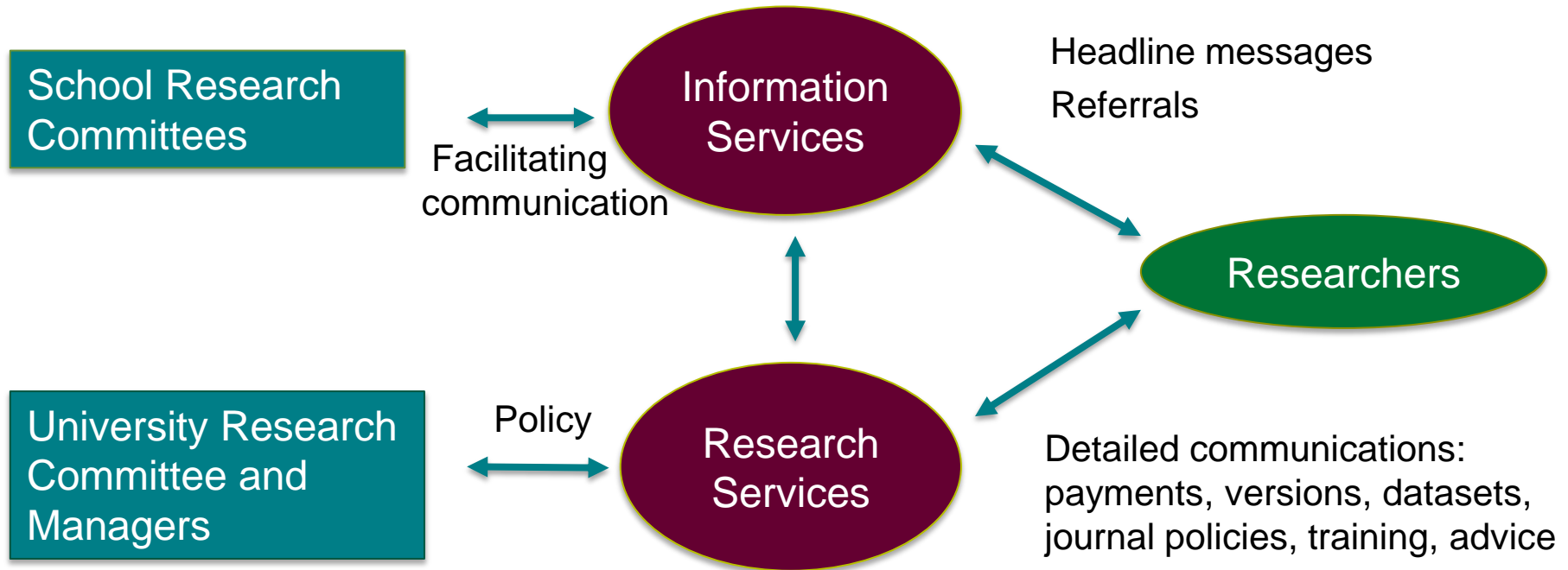


# Liaison

- ▶ Info exchange with Research and Enterprise Office in February 2017
- ▶ Role of Professional Development Advisor
- ▶ New starters list (Human Resources Team)

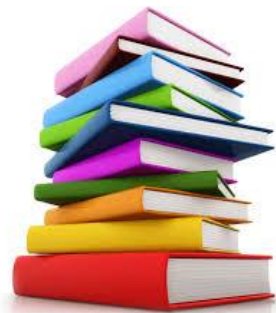


# Research Services Liaison



# What do they need?

- ▶ Online access
- ▶ Accessing journal articles
- ▶ Book requests
- ▶ Support with bibliographic management software
- ▶ Information on Copyright, OA publishing, RDM



# If you have any questions...

Kerstin Treder - Information Specialist for EAS

- ▶ 0121 204 4512
- ▶ k.treder@aston.ac.uk
- ▶ library@aston.ac.uk

**Ask**theLibrary

**Lib**Guides



# Research Bites 2017

Are you carrying out research at the University or studying for a PhD?

Wednesdays \*, 13:00-14:00, Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Workshop A

5 July	Advanced Literature Searching
*Friday 7 July	Ethics and Code of Practice of Publishing in Journals
26 July	Managing Your References - Cite it! Sort it! EndNote it!
2 August	Measuring Research Impact - Bibliometrics
9 August	Searching for Grey Literature
16 August	Open Access and Open Data

30 minute presentation followed by  
Q&A, comments and discussion.  
Please bring along your lunch.

**Library Services** – Making a Difference to Your Learning

[www.aston.ac.uk/library](http://www.aston.ac.uk/library)  
[library@aston.ac.uk](mailto:library@aston.ac.uk)

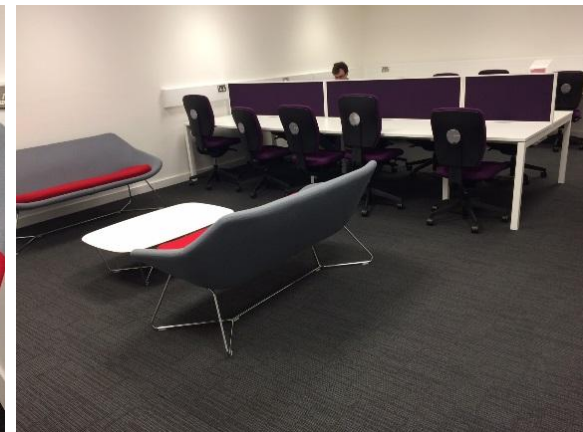
**Book your place via**  
[libguides.aston.ac.uk/ResearchBites](http://libguides.aston.ac.uk/ResearchBites)  
**or contact** [library@aston.ac.uk](mailto:library@aston.ac.uk)

- ▶ Summer seminars: topics relevant to researchers at all levels
- ▶ Watch them online:  
<https://libguides.aston.ac.uk/ResearchBites>



# Library Resources

- ▶ PG study room opened October 2017
- ▶ Access to online resources on and off-campus
- ▶ Inter library loans
- ▶ SCONUL



Aston University Library Services

LibGuides

Expert guides to databases and journal articles



# Any questions?

