

Software:

Information Services Computing: Software Services <https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/computing/desktop-personal/software>

Referencing Management

EndNote: <https://support.clarivate.com/Endnote>

EndNote is supported by the University and available as desktop run software and as a web application. Both versions provide automatic citing in the desktop version of Microsoft Word. Installed on open-access lab computers or can request from the Software Services.

Please note that Visiting Staff and Students are not automatically entitled to Endnote under our Licence Agreement. If you are in a subscribing school and have a Visitor Staff member that needs access, please contact Software Services Team. We require a full-time member of staff within that subscribing unit to vouch for any visiting staff using EndNote. Staff and students NOT in the above Schools or Colleges can purchase a licence.

Zotero: <https://www.zotero.org/>

Zotero is an open-source reference management tool that can help you manage your references. Zotero is available on open-access lab on campus. To use Zotero across multiple computers, create a Zotero account to set up syncing across computers. You may need to select refresh (top right) to sync your library. Please note that EdHelp will support Endnote but not Zotero. However, a support Knowledge Base and Discussion Forum are available from Zotero.

<https://www.zotero.org/support/kb>

<https://forums.zotero.org/discussions>

Creative Software

Adobe Creative Cloud: <https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/computing/desktop-personal/software/main-software-deals/adobe>

Current students at the University can purchase an Adobe Creative Cloud Suite licence directly from our ePay store. The current cost for a single student licence is **£45** for a subscription running up to **31st August 2025**. This licence includes Acrobat Pro, Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere Pro and the other products found in the Creative Cloud Suite.

There are many alternatives to Adobe CC software, many which are free and open-source, such as [Gimp](#), [Krita](#), and [Blender](#).

<https://github.com/KenneyNL/Adobe-Alternatives>

Productivity Software

Microsoft Office: <https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/computing/desktop-personal/software/main-software-deals/microsoft>

Microsoft products are widely used at the university and at home by staff and students for university work. Some applications such as Project, Visual Studio and Visio will need a Microsoft select license bought if you are not eligible for Azure Dev Tools for Teaching.

LibreOffice: <https://www.libreoffice.org/>

LibreOffice is a private, free and open-source office suite – the successor project to OpenOffice. It's compatible with Microsoft Office/365 files and is backed by a non-profit organisation.

Miro: <https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/computing/comms-and-collab/miro>

Miro is an online collaborative whiteboard platform. This is a service that allows you to work with others in real-time on a flexible canvas where mind-maps, flowcharts and more can be created.

<https://academy.miro.com/>

Data Analysis Software

NVivo: <https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/computing/desktop-personal/software/main-software-deals/nvivo>

NVivo is qualitative data analysis software for work with very rich text and multimedia information. It is intended to help users organise and analyse non-numerical or unstructured data. The software allows users to classify, sort and arrange information; examine relationships in the data; and combine analysis with linking, shaping, searching and modelling.

Staff and Students can install NVivo for windows or mac on site as part of a campus-wide site license. Students and Staff can request installations of NVivo from the Software Center on University Managed PCs and can request an installation for use on a Personal Device via our Request Forms. **PLEASE NOTE: NVivo is not permitted to be used outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland for more than 12 weeks.** If you are using the licence outside of the UK/ROI for more than 12 weeks you will need to purchase a full NVivo licence directly from Lumivero.

Taguette: <https://www.taguette.org/>

Taguette is a free and open-source qualitative research tool (which works on all operating systems!). With Taguette, users can import PDFs, Word Docs (.docx), Text files (.txt), HTML, EPUB, MOBI, Open Documents (.odt), and Rich Text Files (.rtf).

After uploading documents, users can highlight words, sentences, or paragraphs and tag them with the codes you create. All the work you do in Taguette is completely exportable, including tagged documents, codebooks, highlights for a specific tag, highlights for all tags, and a list of tags with their descriptions.

SPSS: <https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/computing/desktop-personal/software/main-software-deals/spss>

SPSS products are particularly good for surveys, data manipulation and a wide variety of analyses. Students and Staff in the above Subscribing Schools can also request an installation for use on a **Personal Device** via our Request Form. Please note that Visiting Staff and Students are not automatically entitled to SPSS under our Licence Agreement. If you are in a subscribing school and have a Visitor Staff member needing access to SPSS please contact Software Services Team. We will require a full-time member of staff within that subscribing unit to vouch for any visiting staff using SPSS.

Python: <https://www.python.org/>

Python is a programming language that lets you work quickly and integrate systems more effectively. Python is a useful, general purpose coding language that can be used for a range of things, including working with data, machine learning, and creating software. The university offers a number of Python courses for learners at all levels.

R and RStudio: <https://www.r-project.org/>

R is a free, open-source programming language and software environment for statistical computing and graphics. You can read more about the [R Project for Statistical Computing](#), download the software from The Comprehensive R Archive Network. For those who are unfamiliar using programming languages or prefer a console-style interface, you can download a free version of [RStudio](#), and [Tinn-R](#) is another great resource for writing and editing your code. The Centre for Data, Culture & Society often has courses available for programming in R. You can also find many introductory courses on LinkedIn Learning.

Noteable: <https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/learning-technology/learning-and-teaching-technologies/noteable>

EDINA's Noteable is a cloud-based application providing access to [Jupyter](#) notebooks, developed and supported by EDINA, the University of Edinburgh. It can be accessed online from any browser on most devices, via a VLE integration. The purpose of Noteable is to allow students and staff to access Jupyter notebooks at any time without the request for pre-installation on individual devices. Noteable is available to all University staff for teaching purposes. There is no cost associated with using the Noteable service.

RSpace: <https://www.researchspace.com/>

RSpace (ResearchSpace) is an eLab Notebook (ELN) designed for research groups and labs produced by Scottish company ResearchSpace. Software Services manage an annual university subscription. From 1 January 2025, renews at £95 annually for the full year licence. **NEW USERS** wishing to try out RSpace can request a FREE 60 DAY TRIAL of RSpace.

GitHub: <https://github.com/>

GitHub is a code development and sharing platform that is available in both free and paid versions. This tool is useful for tracking version control changes if you are coding in R or Python, and you can include additional documentation for your project which is hosted online.

OpenRefine: <https://openrefine.org/download>

OpenRefine is a powerful free, open-source tool for working with messy data: cleaning it; transforming it from one format into another; and extending it with web services and external data. You can search for tutorials or FAQs about OpenRefine through the [wiki](#) [GitHub site](#), or contact the UoE Data Carpentries team to learn more about data cleaning and data carpentry.

ArcGIS: <https://www.arcgis.com/index.html>

ArcGIS is a geographic information system (GIS) and is considered industry-standard software for geospatial analysis. ArcGIS benefits from integrated customer support but generally requires a paid license. ArcGIS is available to use for free on some of the

computers at the University; academic staff and students are permitted to use ArcGIS and ArcGIS Online. ArcGIS is available via the Software Centre on University managed computers, or you can download it onto a personal device via ArcGIS Online.

<https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/computing/desktop-personal/software/main-software-deals/arcgis>

QGIS: <https://www.qgis.org/>

QGIS is a free and open-source Geographic Information System (GIS) software that allows users to create, edit, visualize, analyse, and publish geospatial data. It supports viewing, editing, printing, and analysis of geospatial data in a range of data formats. QGIS also offers many experimental plugins to assist with cartography or your project analysis.

The University often offers training seminars for students and staff to learn how to manage geospatial data and QGIS.

Digimap: <https://digimap.edina.ac.uk/>

Digimap is an online map and data delivery service, available by subscription to UK Higher and Further Education establishments. Operated by EDINA at the University of Edinburgh, Digimap offers a number of data collections, including Ordnance Survey, historical, geological, LiDAR and marine maps and spatial data.

Computing

Virtual Labs Service: <https://service-cat.edina.ac.uk/service/853/>

Virtual Labs is a cloud-based service that allows educators to assign a virtual machine to each of their students to use to learn software tools, complete coursework, use software tools for analysis of data and much more. It is similar to providing each student with a PC/laptop loaded with the software required for any particular course.

ELM: <https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/computing/comms-and-collab/elm>

ELM is the University of Edinburgh's AI innovation platform, a central gateway providing safer access to Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) via access to Large Language Models (LLMs).

Archer2: <https://www.archer2.ac.uk/>

The ARCHER2 Service is a world class advanced computing resource for UK researchers. ARCHER2 is provided by [UKRI](#), [EPCC](#), [HPE Cray](#) and the University of Edinburgh. Researchers have used supercomputing systems similar to ARCHER2 to model, visualise and analyse large systems, or process large amounts of data across many different scientific fields, including chemistry, physics, materials science, climate science and biomedical sciences.

Paid access to ARCHER2 is primarily through technical application with costs to be included in a grant proposal. Exact processes and procedures will vary depending on the access route used and the research funder.

Eddie: <https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/research-support/research-computing/ecdf/high-performance-computing>

Eddie is the University's Research Compute Cluster. It runs a Linux operating system and can analyse large amounts of data faster than a desktop computer. Eddie can help you work with very large datasets of any type. You can use it for simulation and modelling, as well as for data analysis, manipulation, mining and visualisation. Standard allocation: Free (with additional paid for options)

Data Management

DMP Online: <https://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk/>

DMPOnline helps you to create, review, and share data management plans that meet institutional and funder requirements. It is provided by the Digital Curation Centre (DCC). Registering with DMPOnline, gives you access to this web-based tool to create, share and export DMPs, and which includes funder templates, guidance and tips as well as exemplars.

DataStore: <https://library.ed.ac.uk/research-support/research-data-service/during/data-storage>

All researchers are granted personal allocation of 500GB for free, half (250GB) which can be reallocated to a shared group project (University users only). DataStore works with [DataSync](#) so you can access your data from anywhere and share it with anyone outside the University.

DataSync: <https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/computing/desktop-personal/datasync/external-storage>

<https://datasync.ed.ac.uk/index.php/login>

Aside from being able to have your files synched and available via the Web Interface and client applications, one of the main uses of DataSync is the ability to share files with other collaborators, be they members of the University with existing accounts or external users with no Uni affiliation. You can connect DataSync to your personal and/or group share on DataStore, giving access to your files anywhere. You can use Datasync to share files with colleagues both within and out with the University. You can synchronise documents between Datasync and your personal device using 3rd-party applications.

DataShare: <https://datashare.ed.ac.uk/>

Edinburgh DataShare is a digital repository of research data produced at the University of Edinburgh, hosted by the [Research Data Service](#) in Information Services. Edinburgh University researchers who have produced research data associated with an existing or forthcoming publication, or which has potential use for other researchers, are invited to upload their dataset for sharing and safekeeping. A persistent identifier and suggested citation will be provided.

DataVault: <https://library.ed.ac.uk/research-support/research-data-service/after/datavault>

DataVault is a long-term, low-cost, immutable, and safe storage solution for your research data, which is no longer active or not intended for publication. There are charges for depositing data in the DataVault. They are applied proportionally to the volume of data and the period of storage, calculated to the nearest pound, with a minimum period of three years (payment can be spread over the three years).

Zenodo: <https://zenodo.org/>

Zenodo is a free, open repository for sharing and preserving research outputs. It's hosted by CERN and is open to researchers from around the world. Built and developed by researchers, to ensure that everyone can join in Open Science. Data is stored in the [CERN Data Centre](#), which provides long-term preservation.

Supporting Staff and Communities:

Academic Support Librarians

<https://library.ed.ac.uk/academic-support-librarians>

Academic Support Librarians (ASLs) work in partnership with Schools and Colleges to understand their library needs and to communicate about library resources and services. ASLs help students develop the digital and information literacy skills to use library resources to get the best from their studies and research. Information Literacy and Library Skills sessions, and Academic Support by Subject/College.

Research Data Service

<https://library.ed.ac.uk/research-support/research-data-service>

We provide a suite of tools and support that helps staff and students be effective with their research data before, during and after their project. A range of training programmes on research data and research data management (RDM) in the form of online courses and, digital or in-person live sessions to help you manage your research data effectively and efficiently.

Information Services

<https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/help-consultancy/is-skills>

The Digital Skills, Design and Training team provides University-level support to develop the digital and information literacy, desktop and IT productivity skills of University staff and students to help them work, research and study more effectively and to support continuing professional development.

Digital Skills Programme <https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/help-consultancy/is-skills/classroom-based-courses-and-webinars>

Digital Skills Framework <https://uoesharepoint.com/sites/DigitalSkillsFrameworkUoE>

Software Sustainability Institute

<https://www.software.ac.uk/>

Over the years, we've written and commissioned over 90 guides with information ranging from software project management and sustainability to event organisation and online training delivery. If you can't find what you're looking for, get in touch.

Resource Hub <https://www.software.ac.uk/resource-hub>

Edinburgh Carpentries

<https://edcarp.github.io/>

Edinburgh Carpentries (EdCarp) is a local community of instructors and volunteers of [The Carpentries](#) mainly at the University of Edinburgh. Our instructors are trained volunteers, who deliver workshops about introductory coding and coding best practices, specifically targeted at academics. The Carpentries workshops are suitable for complete beginners.

The Carpentries teaches foundational computational, coding, and data science skills to researchers worldwide with no or minimal prior programming knowledge who find themselves increasingly having to write code to conduct their work. In the UK, the Carpentry programme was first endorsed by the [Software Sustainability Institute \(SSI\)](#), which still provide support for running and organising workshops and recruiting instructors from the wider UK Carpentry community.

Digital Research Services

<https://digitalresearchservices.ed.ac.uk/>

A single point of access to all of the data and computing services available to researchers at the University of Edinburgh.

The Facilitation team is here to help you navigate the complex landscape of digital tools, data, and computing services and resources. You can contact us via email or schedule an online meeting to discuss your research requirements, and have a chat about Digital Research Services available at the University of Edinburgh.

<https://digitalresearchservices.ed.ac.uk/resources/>

Centre for Data, Culture & Society

<https://www.cdcs.ed.ac.uk/>

The Centre for Data, Culture & Society provides our community with space for methodological experimentation, innovation and skills development, and gives tailored advice and support to research groups and projects.

Our community is buzzing with ideas. For those who want to develop or scale up digital and data-led projects, we're here to help and offer practical assistance in developing projects. We can provide an informal sounding board for ideas in early stages, offering guidance on possible next steps, options and troubleshooting. Within our network we have experience and expertise across many disciplines and research methods.

<https://www.cdcs.ed.ac.uk/community>

EFI Research

<https://efi.ed.ac.uk/research/>

We catalyse collaborative, data-driven and interdisciplinary research innovation across the University of Edinburgh and across six key themes: Creative Industries & Digital Humanities, Ethics of Data & AI, Financial Services & Fintech, Future Infrastructure, Public Sector, Tourism & Festivals.

Data Driven Innovation

<https://ddi.ac.uk/>

An innovation network helping organisations tackle challenges for industry and society by doing data right to support Edinburgh in its ambition to become the data capital of Europe.

Through innovation and collaboration, we're aiming to help organisations across 10 industrial sectors, from fintech and tourism, to healthcare and agriculture. We want to help you tackle challenges and get better at what you do; improving products and services, and developing new ones.

EDINA

<https://edina.ac.uk/>

EDINA is a world class centre for data and digital expertise. We provide large scale online services to universities, colleges and schools across the UK and internationally. We collaborate across the University on data driven innovation.

EPCC

<https://www.epcc.ed.ac.uk/>

EPCC, part of the University of Edinburgh, is the UK's leading centre of Supercomputing and Data Science expertise. At our Advanced Computing Facility (ACF), we host a remarkable collection of high-performance computing and data services. We can help global enterprises, SMEs and start-ups to develop, manage and scale product development and manufacturing; to evaluate financial risks; and to generate new business insights. Research and academic institutions can use our facilities to run calculations and simulations at scales that were previously impossible to accelerate new discoveries.

The New Real

<https://www.newreal.cc/about>

Established 2019, The New Real is a unique hub for AI, creativity and futures research. It is a partnership between the University of Edinburgh, Alan Turing Institute, and Edinburgh's Festivals. The Doing AI Differently initiative challenges traditional approaches to AI development by positioning humanities perspectives as integral—rather than supplemental—to technical innovation.

The initiative will build a community of scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, with a special focus on bringing humanities and arts contributions further up the AI development pipeline, to the fundamental design of the technology.

The Alan Turing Institute

<https://www.turing.ac.uk/about-us>

The Alan Turing Institute is the national institute for data science and artificial intelligence, with headquarters at the British Library. In 2023 the Institute launched an open [university network](#), providing all UK universities with an interest in data science and AI the opportunity to engage and collaborate both with the Institute and its broader networks. The Turing networks will encourage direct connections between universities, partners and other

communities we reach and provide an important benchmark for the success of the Institute in driving the data science and artificial intelligence agenda in the UK.

SHAPE

SHAPE (Social Sciences Humanities & the Arts for People and the Economy) is a new collective name for the Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts.

Developed by two of the major research funders in the United Kingdom, the British Academy and UKRI, it champions the fundamental role of arts, humanities and social science disciplines in understanding our world. SHAPE embodies a wider scope of disciplines that focus on insights from studies of people, culture, and societies.

SHAPE in Innovation is a tool for understanding the role of SHAPE subjects at the University of Edinburgh in addressing key missions of Climate and sustainability, Data, digital and AI, and Future health and care.

<https://shape-innovation.ed.ac.uk/about/>

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/arts-humanities-soc-sci/research-ke/serch-research-hub/shape>

Other Training and Information:

MANTRA: Research Data Management Training:

Software practicals: Data handling in SPSS, R, ArcGIS, NVivo:

<https://mantra.ed.ac.uk/softwarepracticals.html>

Research Data Management and Sharing: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/data-management>

LinkedIn Learning: LinkedIn Learning is available to all University of Edinburgh students and staff.

<https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/help-consultancy/is-skills/linkedin-learning/about-linkedin-learning>

Managing and Sharing Data: <https://dam.ukdataservice.ac.uk/media/622417/managingsharing.pdf>

Guide to Research Data Management: <https://library.ed.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2024-08/A%20Guide%20to%20Research%20Data%20Management%20at%20Edinburgh%202019.pdf>

Open Research (Open Science) <https://library.ed.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2024-08/Quick%20Guide%205%20-%20Open%20Research%20at%20Edinburgh.pdf>

FAIR data principals <https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>

FAIR Software: <https://library.ed.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2024-08/Quick%20Guide%208%20-%2026%23039%3BFAIR%26%23039%3B%20Software.pdf>

Choose an open source license: <https://choosealicense.com/>

Good enough practices in scientific computing

<https://journals.plos.org/ploscompbiol/article?id=10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005510>