Drama Online is a database which provides access to the core collection only. This includes play texts and scholarly works from Faber & Faber, and modern plays, student editions and other texts from Bloomsbury’s Methuen Drama and Arden Shakespeare imprints.

Location and logging on
Drama Online can be found in the Electronic Resources section of the Library website or Databases from the Quick Links menu. There are also links to it from certain subject guide pages. Click on D from the A-Z of Electronic Databases, then click on the blue Drama Online link. At the Electronic Resources Login page, enter your University username and password.

Finding information & quick searching
To browse content, use the navigation bar at the top of the screen to see lists of plays, playwrights, genres and time periods etc. For certain lists, remember to switch on the ‘show subscribed content only’ button to display content we have full access to.

To do a quick search of all content types, enter a term in the box at the top of the screen and then click on search.

Think about keywords that are relevant to your research, use simple keywords rather than long phrases or sentences.

Refining results
You can refine a search by using the filters on the left. For example, a search on street theatre can be refined by limiting it to a specific period, author, theme, setting, genre or by looking only at plays to do with street theatre.

Advanced searching
For more specific searches, use the Advanced Search tool. This feature allows you to do very detailed searches for plays were you can choose for example, the number of male/female roles, and the number of scenes and words. You can also search for monologues and, by using filters,
go to the exact position of the monologue in the play.

Looking at results
Results show the title of a play, publisher and information on Acts, Scenes and Roles etc. To see a play, click on the title.

To read the play, click on Read play.

Once you have selected either a play or other text to read, you can use the Search this text feature to do a search within the text or choose to read a particular scene.

Play tools
This feature allows you to view where a character appears and with whom they interact in a play.

By selecting one of the dots in the Character Grid, you’ll go into the Reader to view the lines for that character and scene only.

Below the Character Grid, you will see a bar chart that represents the play in terms of Words and Speeches. Selecting one or more characters from the Character Grid will change the chart to reflect the words and speeches for those selected.

The words and speeches for the character/s you chose are shown for each scene. Hover over a bar for the precise word count.

Printing, Bookmarking, Sharing records
You can print out and save content depending on the page view you are on, but be aware of copyright as described under Terms & Conditions.

As well as sharing search results, you can also bookmark them, add notes and comments next to text, and create folders.

Note: you will need to create an account in order to use these features.

When you have finished, click on Log out at the top of the screen.

Further help
Speak to a member of staff at the Help Desk, telephone 01204 903232 or email subjecthelp@bolton.ac.uk