Where to read and practise AI

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This is the printed version of these notes. A World-Wide Web version can be found at `http://sable.ox.ac.uk/~popx/students/books/books/books.html`. It's almost identical, but also contains links to some of the organisations mentioned here.

- **Radcliffe Science Library.** Has a few books on open shelves in the computing/maths section of the Lancaster room, and a few more in the stacks. With the catalogue, most pre-1988 books will only be listed on the cards (but some are on OLIS), but all post-1988 books will be on OLIS.

  In general, the RSL provides a poor, poor service to those wanting AI literature from outside the UK. If you want something that it doesn't have, fill in a suggestion form at the ground floor Enquiries desk, and tell me so I can do the same — enough pressure may make them change their mind. Check OLIS and the cards first, to make sure that the book really isn't there.

  The RSL has only a few journals, notably *Artificial Intelligence* on open shelves. You will find most articles in this journal too technical, but there are sometimes some interesting general discussions. Early issues (the journal starts in 1970) will assume less knowledge of AI. *Artificial Intelligence Reviews*, also on open shelves, is more comprehensible.

- **Psychology Library.** We have five shelves of books, and a lot of photocopied articles in the "AI boxes" at the back of the library. I have tried to ensure that everything I ask you to read is either in Psychology or the RSL. We have an incomplete run of *Artificial Intelligence*, cancelled in 1994 due to lack of money. *Cognitive Science* carries a lot of AI-as-cognitive-modelling articles; *Behavioural and Brain Sciences* has fewer, but those it does are worth looking at. This is a "peer review" journal, where an original article will be followed by twenty or so conmmentaries from various critics. In 1990, the journal published a review and commentaries on Roger Penrose' book, *The Emperor's New Mind* — well worth reading.

  Most of the AI books are in the KH section. A few are in general computing, KC. You'll also find one or two related to cognitive science in other places, for example BK:G 91, BH:S 531, 299, BC:C 39, AA:H 67. The *Proceedings of the Cognitive Science Society* have a lot of AI-related articles: these are on the oversize shelves at BH:C 65. Also in these shelves, at AA:O, are some dated but still very useful Open University introductions to the subject. The two-volume *Encyclopedia of AI* is on the reference shelves, just inside the library.

- **Brookes University Library.** This is what used to be the Oxford Poly. A little-known fact is that it's a public service library, open to the public for

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reference. Go up Headington Hill and turn right: a big sign identifies Brookes University itself, and you can find the library once inside the main entrance. Brookes has its own AI department, and so has some books in its library. They probably don't have any of the standard textbooks that we don't, but will have some papers and conference proceedings. (The library may also be of interest for architecture, design, and various other topics not so easy to find here, should you be interested in such.)

- **Hooke Library.** Poor, but has a few standard texts.

- **College libraries.** Stocks vary widely. Given the paucity of books elsewhere, if you need something, do future generations a favour and make your library buy it. Especially important when you remember that the Psychology library will have only one copy of most books. Note that your librarian may have classified some of the AI books as Engineering, Maths, Computing, or Philosophy.

- **Westgate Public Library.** Joining is easy, though you may need a tutor's reference. They have very few AI books in stock; however, for 60p, you can order, via inter-library loan, almost any book, technical or non-technical. This is a much better deal than at the RSL, because you can take the book away once it arrives. However, it's best to order *articles* via the RSL. In general, provided that you ask only for the pages containing the article you want, and not for the complete journal volume, you'll then get a photocopy which is yours to keep.

- **Blackwells!** This is the best place to go if you want to see what's new in AI. Another little-known fact is that — as stated on a notice inside the front of the shop — Blackwells allow you to browse, undisturbed, for as long as you want, though you shouldn't look too obvious if you intend to sit and make notes for several hours. One can also buy the books — check the second-hand department on the third floor first. Dillons has fewer academic books than Blackwells, but occasionally I've found ones that Blackwells lacked.

  If you are in London, then Skoob books in Sicilian Avenue — near Holborn, off Southampton Row — has a very good stock of cheap second-hand books, including AI, psychology, and computing.

- **Lecture notes.** I have the notes for my Hilary 1994 and 1995 lectures on general AI. These don't cover language, vision, or connectionism, since they're taught elsewhere, but do cover a fair range of other topics, including production systems, expert systems, computers and criticisms of the subject. Most other tutors also make their notes available.

  I also have tutorial notes on various topics. All my notes are on the Web, and on the PowerMac in Psychology, in the AI folder. Ask Peter Ward if you can't access the latter. Printed copies are in the Library.

- **Other media.** Oxford's attachment to videos, hypertext, and such things is as weak as its attachment to paper is strong. However, I have one 1984 video on expert systems which shows a number of real applications — ask if you want to borrow it.

- **Practicals.** There are practicals in symbolic AI using Prolog, and in connectionism. If doing the Finals paper, you should try to do at least one of these. You can get my notes even if you aren't doing my practical.

- **AI Society.** Organises regular lectures and also has computing facilities, with an AI project. Ask me for details.

- **Other lectures.** There are various things going. Things I find out about, I email to everyone on the AI Society mailing list.