FINDING BOOKS AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS

OBIS is the Oberlin College Library’s online catalog; it lists most library materials. The OhioLINK Library Catalog combines the holdings of 90 libraries at colleges and universities—and through SearchOhio, of an additional 20 public libraries—across Ohio. Both can be searched by Author or Title for a specific author or work, or by Subject Heading or Keyword for works about a topic, person, place, etc.

Writers can be searched as both AUTHOR (for writings by the person) and SUBJECT (for writings about the person and his/her works):

Dostoyevsky, Fyodor, 1821-1881

Sample SUBJECT HEADINGS for course-related topics:

- Femmes fatales
- Femmes fatales in art
- Femmes fatales in literature
- Femmes fatales in motion pictures
- Women in literature
- Motherhood in literature
- Mothers in literature
- Social classes in literature

Exercise for searching OBIS for books relevant to your topic

2. Select the CATALOG tab, change the drop-down search option to Author; search: dostoyevsky
3. Click on Limit/Sort Search; for MATERIAL type, select Video/DVD, and click Search
4. Click on the Start Over button and select the Subject Heading search option; search: Dostoyevsky
5. Scroll down to the listing for books about The idiot

Use KEYWORD and ADVANCED searches to find book chapters/articles, and works on multiple topics:

- example: dostoyevsky and women

USING DATABASES TO FIND ARTICLES IN SCHOLARLY, ACADEMIC JOURNALS

Connect from Databases tab on the Library home page search box, or use the Quick Links drop-down menu

- MLA International Bibliography
  Indexes books and periodical articles in world literature, folklore, and modern languages
  Academic Search Complete
  Indexes articles from general and academic periodicals in all disciplines; almost 60% of the journals indexed include full text, and most are peer-reviewed.

Exercise for searching MLA International Bibliography for scholarly journal articles relevant to your topic

2. Choose the Databases tab; under the “by subject” drop-down search option, choose English or Literature
3. Find and select MLA International Bibliography
4. In box 1 enter search terms for the first concept and click Search
5. In box 2 enter search terms for the second concept, each connected by “or,” and click Search
6. Refine results by choosing “Peer Reviewed”

OTHER RECOMMENDED DATABASES

- Film & Television Literature Index
- Gender Studies Database
- Historical Abstracts
- Humanities International Complete
SUMMON – default tab on library home page search box

- searches across the spectrum of library content: books, scholarly articles, newspapers, data, audio, video, images, government documents, and more; searches many, but not all, library resources
- draws from OBIS, OhioLINK, many full text and article indexing databases, and digital repositories from colleges, universities, research centers, and other open-access archives
- comprehensive or complex searches should be done in subject-specific databases
- OBIS and OhioLINK are generally better for finding books
- if links don’t lead to full text, be persistent or ask for help; we probably do have access

Exercise for searching Summon for additional articles relevant to your topic
1. From the library home page, make sure the Summon tab is selected
2. In the Search box, type: myshkin christ
3. Under Refine Your Search, select “Scholarly and Peer-Review”

CITING YOUR SOURCES

Main Reference LB2369 .G53 2009

http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/
See the Humanities section for examples of how to cite resources using MLA style.

HOW TO GET MATERIALS NOT AVAILABLE AT OBERLIN

To determine if the library has a particular journal, Use “360 Link to Full Text” or “Find It!” when available in research databases, or select the Journal Finder tab on Library home page or from the Quick Links pull-down menu

OhioLINK/SearchOhio
- how it works: 110 Ohio libraries lend materials (primarily books) to each other
  - does not include delivery of journal articles – see section below on ILL
- to request: do-it-yourself online searching and requesting
- Barcode is the number on the back of your OCID (not your T-number)
- how long it takes: allow 3-4 business days
- loan period: 3 weeks + up to 6 three-week renewals if item has not been requested by someone else

Interlibrary Loan (ILL or ILLiad)
- use for: articles in journals not available at Oberlin, books not available from OhioLINK
- how it works: libraries lend materials to each other; for journal articles they may send scanned pdfs
- to request: select “ILLiad/Interlibrary Loan” from the Quick Links menu on the Library’s home page; set up an account; enter and track ILL requests online
- how long it takes: allow 1-2 weeks; many articles arrive much more quickly
- loan period: journal articles are yours to keep; loan period for books varies
HOW TO GET RESEARCH HELP AT THE LIBRARY

Librarians are available to assist with your research projects:
✓ Help focus and define research topics
✓ Find information for papers and projects
✓ Locate books, journal articles, and other library materials
✓ Develop effective search strategies for online databases
✓ Identify useful web sites and internet resources
✓ Evaluate the quality of web sites and other information sources
✓ Track down facts and statistical data
✓ Learn how to use the library and its resources

Drop-in help at the Research Desk.  Just stop by and tell us what you need
Monday–Thursday:  10am–noon, 1–5pm, & 7pm–midnight
Friday: 10am–noon & 1–5pm
Weekend: Sat.: 2–4 pm, Sunday: 1–5pm & 7 pm–midnight

IM. Chat online with a member of Oberlin’s reference staff (ObieRef) – hours same as above

Phone. 440-775-5031 – hours same as above

Email. reference@oberlin.edu – any time

Research appointment.  Sign up online from the library home page

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