FINDING BOOKS AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS

**OBIS** is the Oberlin College Library’s online catalog; it lists most library materials. Online requesting/borrowing is available through the [OhioLINK Library Catalog](https://www.ohiolink.edu/), which combines the holdings of 120 libraries at Ohio colleges and universities, and through [SearchOhio](https://searchohio.org/), which does the same for 28 Ohio public library systems. All three catalogs are searchable 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 her/his works):

- Murasaki Shikibu, 978?

**Suggested SUBJECT HEADINGS** for related topics:

- Japan -- Court and courtiers
- Japan -- History -- Heian period, 794-1185
  - also browse Japan -- History for later time periods, e.g., 1185-1600; Tokugawa period, 1600-1868;
  - Restoration, 1853-1870; Meiji period, 1868-1912; etc.
- Japanese literature -- Heian period, 794-1185
- Art, Japanese -- Heian period, 794-1185
- Comic books, strips, etc -- Japan
- Graphic novels
- Nō [general works and those that deal with the presentation of Nō plays on the stage]
- Nō plays [text of Nō plays and works treating them from a literary point of view]

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

- manga
- genji
- manga and genji

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**Exercise for searching OBIS for books relevant to your topic**

2. Choose the CATALOG tab and change the drop-down search option to **AUTHOR**; search: murasaki shikibu
3. Change the drop-down search option to **SUBJECT**; search: murasaki shikibu
4. Click on Limit/Sort Search; for **LANGUAGE**, select English, and click Search
5. Change the drop-down search option to **KEYWORD**; search: genji

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**FINDING CONTEXTUAL AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON JAPANESE HISTORY, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE**

  Main Reference: PL726.1.M495 1985
Main Reference DS805.J263 1993 (2 vols.)

USING DATABASES TO FIND ARTICLES IN SCHOLARLY 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 language

☆ Bibliography of Asian Studies
Indexes materials published worldwide on all subjects pertaining to East, Southeast, and South Asia

Academic Search Complete
Indexes articles from general and academic periodicals in all disciplines; over 80% of the journals indexed are peer-reviewed; almost 60% include full text

Humanities International Complete
Indexes journals, books, and other sources on all aspects of the humanities, with particular focus on literary, scholarly, and creative thought

Historical Abstracts
Indexes articles from journals on world history and culture from 1450 to the present; despite the official dates of coverage, many articles cover earlier historical time periods

Literary Reference Center Plus (published by EBSCO)
Literature Resource Center (published by Gale Group)
These two databases provide biographical, bibliographical, and critical content on literary figures and their works from all time periods and genres; information comes from reference works, books, and literary journals. Included are biographies, plot summaries, journal articles, reviews, and more

☞ 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 Literature
3. Find and select MLA International Bibliography
4. In box 1 enter search term for the first concept and click Search (i.e., genji)
5. In box 2 enter search terms for the second concept, each connected by “or,” and click Search

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

SUMMON – first tab on library home page search box

• searches across the spectrum of library content: books, scholarly articles, newspapers, audio, video, images, data, government documents, and more; searches most, but not all, library resources
• draws from OBIS, 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 sometimes do have access

☞ Exercise for searching with Summon for additional articles relevant to your topic
2. Choose the Summon tab; in the Search box, type: heian court
3. Refine your search with the option “Limit to articles from peer-reviewed publications”
4. Refine your search further with the Subject Term “japanese literature”

**Exercise for independent searching and sharing**
2. Choose two of the resources you learned about in class today and search them for a topic you’re considering writing about for your research paper
3. When we reconvene as a group, be prepared to share something with your classmates about at least one of the sources you investigated: something interesting or surprising you found, what your experience was like searching and using the resource, advice or suggestions about the resource

**CITING YOUR SOURCES**

Main Reference LB2369 .G53 2009

*Purdue Online Writing Lab* (aka the OWL). Maintained by Perdue University.
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/
See the Research and Citation section for examples of how to cite resources using APA, MLA, and Chicago citation styles.

**HOW TO GET MATERIALS NOT AVAILABLE AT OBERLIN**

**OhioLINK/SearchOhio**
- how it works: over 300 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
- 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