Resources for ENGL 299 “Introduction to the Advanced Study of Literature”
Cynthia H. Comer, Reference & Instruction Dept., Oberlin College Library

FINDING BOOKS AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS

OBIS is the Oberlin College Library’s online catalog; it lists most library materials. Online borrowing is available through the OhioLINK Library Catalog, which combines the holdings of 120 libraries at Ohio colleges and universities, and through SearchOhio, 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.

- **Subject Heading** searches are based on Library of Congress Subject Headings and search only the Subjects part of a catalog record
- **Keyword** searches find words, or a combination of words, that appear anywhere in a catalog record, including author, title, publisher, table of contents, and subjects.

Poets can be searched as both **AUTHOR** (for writings by poets) and **SUBJECT** (for writings about poets and their works)

Dickinson, Emily, 1830-1886  
Ginsberg, Allen, 1926-1997  
Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616

Useful subject subheadings  
-- Bibliography  
-- Biography  
-- Criticism and interpretation  
-- Encyclopedias  
-- Interviews

Note: to find selections and collected editions, search a poet as an author in OBIS, then look for the title “Works.” Also try searching for keywords “complete works,” “complete poems,” “collected works,” etc. in combination with the poet’s name.

FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT WRITERS AND LITERARY WORKS THROUGH REFERENCE SOURCES

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

**Literature Resource Center** (product from Gale Cengage Learning)  
**Literary Reference Center Plus** (product from EBSCO)  
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.

**Gale Contextual Encyclopedia of American Literature.** Detroit, MI: Gale, 2009. (4 vols.)  
e-book, connect OBIS—Gale Virtual Reference Library version recommended
**FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT LITERARY MOVEMENTS, THEORIES, TECHNIQUES, AND CONCEPTS**

e-book, connect from OBIS—Gale Virtual Reference Library version recommended

e-book, connect from OBIS, updated periodically


**FINDING CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION ON HISTORICAL TIME PERIODS**


Main Reference PR2892 .O56 2002 (2 vols.)

Main Reference CB361 .E52 1999 (6 vols.)

Main Reference DA550 .E527 2004 (4 vols.)

Main Reference DA529 .E53 1992

Main Reference DA566 .T835 1995


USING DATABASES TO FIND LITERARY CRITICISM IN SCHOLARLY JOURNALS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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

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

MLA International Bibliography.
Indexes books and periodical articles in world literature and modern language.

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

Academic Search Complete. (Dates covered vary by journal title.)
Indexes articles from 13,000+ general and academic periodicals in all disciplines; over 65% of the journals indexed include full text, and most are peer-reviewed.

USING DATABASES TO FIND ARTICLES IN POPULAR MAGAZINES (JOURNALISM, REVIEWS)

MasterFILE Premier
Indexes 2,400+ general, mass market, and consumer-oriented magazines covering nearly all subjects; around 70% include full text.

Readers’ Guide Abstracts (covers 1983-present) and Readers’ Guide Retrospective (covers 1890-1982)
These two related databases index articles published in U.S. and Canadian popular, general interest magazines from the late 19th c. to the present.

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 MLA style.

HOW TO GET MATERIALS NOT AVAILABLE AT OBERLIN

OhioLINK/SearchOhio
- how it works: 115 Ohio library systems 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

*Drop-in help at the Research Help 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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