

Library Research Guide for ENAM 358: Science, Identity and American Literature

Dr. Deandra Little ☞ Spring 2008

GETTING HELP WITH YOUR RESEARCH

You can contact a reference librarian at any time for help with your research for this class, or any of your other classes:

Questions about English:

Christine Ruotolo
ruotolo@virginia.edu
434-982-2652

General Reference Questions:

IM Screen Name: UVALibRef
library@virginia.edu
434-984-3021

HELPFUL URLS

Library Home Page: <http://www.lib.virginia.edu>

Ask a Librarian (phone, email, IM): <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/questions.html>

English Subject Guide: <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/subjects/English>

Accessing Databases from Off Grounds: <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/indexes/authent.html>

VIRGO (THE ONLINE LIBRARY CATALOG): <http://virgo.lib.virginia.edu>

- Find out what the library owns, including books, journal titles, manuscript titles & audio/visual materials.
- Renew materials, place a recall, request a purchase or an interlibrary loan.

Sample searches: beecher catherine [author]
'democracy in america' [title]
science in literature [subject]
technology united states history 19th century [keywords in subject]
Truncation: scien\$ for science, scientist, scientific, etc.
Booleans: daguerrotype or photograph
(scien\$ or techno\$) and 'american literature'

INDEXES FOR FINDING SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLES

MLA International Bibliography (MLAIB): The best resource for finding scholarly journal articles about literature. Contains articles written from 1920 to the present. To get the full text of the article, click on "Find article @ UVa Libraries", or look up the journal title in VIRGO.

Sample search: Type **hawthorne and scien*** in the search box, and check off the box that limits the search to refereed publications. Returns 14 citations.

Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature (ABELL): Indexes book chapters, book reviews, essay collections, and dissertations as well as scholarly journal articles. Its articles date back to 1920. A good supplement to the MLAIB. Use the Find@UVa button to locate the full text.

Sample search: Click on **Search** and type "**rebecca harding davis**" and "**iron mills**" in the keywords field. Returns 13 citations.

COMPREHENSIVE LITERATURE DATABASES

Literature Resource Center: A great place to begin research on a particular author. This database includes full-text articles from the Dictionary of Literary Biography and other biographical and critical compilations about authors, along with MLAIB citations and some full-text articles.

Sample search: Search for **Catharine Beecher**. Click on the tabs near the top of the screen to view results in different categories – in this case, 2 biographies, 4 19th-century reviews, 25 citations from the MLAIB, etc.

Literature Online (LION): The "Criticism and Reference" search includes ABELL citations and references from articles and books. Many cited journals are available in full text. LION also includes the full text of many pre-20th century American and British literary texts

Sample search: Search for **Rebecca Harding Davis**. Results include links to 12 online texts by the author, 96 article citations, and 9 reference essays.

HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS

Periodicals Index Online: A great resource for finding older articles, Periodicals Index Online indexes the contents of thousands of scholarly journals in the humanities and social sciences. All journals are indexed back to their date of inception, as far back as the late 18th century in some cases. Many full-text articles are available via links to a companion database, Periodicals Archive Online.

Sample search: Click on Article Search. Type **stereograph** in the keyword box and select **1830** to **1870** as the years of publication. Returns a citation for "The Stereoscope and the Stereograph" by Holmes.

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: A searchable archive of four major US newspapers, dating back to their initial date of publication. The New York Times (1851-1999) is the oldest.

America's Historical Newspapers: 1690-1922: Searchable full text collection of American newspapers from all regions published between 1690 and 1922.

OTHER REFERENCE SOURCES

Digital Dissertations: Indexes dissertations from 1861 to the present. Abstracts are available from 1980 onward, and dissertations published since 1997 are available in their entirety as PDF files.

Oxford English Dictionary (3rd ed.): The electronic OED is updated quarterly and features both simple and advanced search interfaces.