

Library Research Guide for ENLT 201M-9: Introduction to Literary Studies

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How can I get help with my research?

Glad you asked! Just contact one of the two subject librarians for English:

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How can I search the Library's materials?

Use VIRGO, the online catalog: <http://virgo.lib.virginia.edu>. VIRGO lets you:

- Find library-owned materials, including books, manuscripts, CDs and DVDs
- Renew materials, place a recall, request a purchase or an interlibrary loan

Sample searches: joyce james [author]
'poetic designs' [title]
lyric poetry [subject]

Truncation: poet\$ for poetry, poetic, poetics, etc.

Booleans: shakespeare and ado and criticism [keyword]

(black or 'african american') and poet\$ [subject]

Where can I find basic information about an author?

[Literature Resource Center](#) is 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 citations from MLAIB (see description below) and some full-text articles (see also the [Literature Online \[LION\]](#) database, which has similar content).

Sample search: In Literature Resource Center, search for **Emily Dickinson**. Click on the tabs near the top of the screen to view results in different categories - in this case, 6 biographical essays, almost 200 reference articles, 2000+ citations from MLAIB, etc.

Where can I find scholarly journal articles?

[MLA International Bibliography \(MLAIB\)](#) is the best resource for finding scholarly journal articles. Contains articles written from 1963 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. (See also the [Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature \[ABELL\]](#), which indexes articles, book chapters, and reviews back to 1920 and is a good supplement to the MLAIB.)

Sample search: In the MLAIB, type **joyce and dead** in the search box; check the box that limits the search to articles with full text. Returns 265 citations.

Where can I find newspaper articles?

[LexisNexis](#) is the best resource for newspaper articles written within the past ten years.

Sample search: Type **zadie smith on beauty** in the **Quick News Search**, and set the date field to "Previous two years". Will return 125 of the most relevant hits, including reviews and profiles of the author. Advanced search lets you go back as far as the database goes, i.e. around 20 years.

How about older newspaper articles?

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Use this database to find newspaper articles more than 10 years old. It contains full text of four major US newspapers (NY Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune), dating back to their initial date of publication.

Sample search: Type **rich** in the first search box and **valediction forbidding mourning** in the second search box. Select the **New York Times** from the database menu. Returns a review of Rich's *Poems 1968-1970*, in which "Valediction" first appeared.

Where can I find reviews of a book, movie, or play?

Newspapers are a great source of reviews, and [LexisNexis](#) has an advanced search to help you track them down.

Sample search: From the main page, click on the **Guided News Search** tab. Select **Arts & Sports News** from the 1st pulldown menu, and **Book, movie music & play reviews** from the second. Type "**fornes and mud**" in the 1st search field, and select **All available dates** as the date range. Returns 5 reviews.

Other Resources

RefWorks: RefWorks is an online service that allows you to capture and organize citations, and use these citations to create footnotes and bibliographies as you write your papers.

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

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>
