

Library Research Guide for ENLT 213
Composing America: Writing American Identity from Emerson to Ellison (Dubreuil)
Fall 2007

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
434-982-2677

General reference questions:
IM Screen Name: UVALibRef
library@virginia.edu
434-924-3021

Searching 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: **olaudah equiano** [author]
souls of black folk [title]
transcendentalism [subject]

Truncation: **natur\$** for natural, naturalism, naturalist, etc.

Booleans: **black or african american**

Exact Phrase: **'identity politics'** (note the single quotes)

Finding 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 sources, plus citations from the MLAIB (see description below) and some full-text articles.

Sample search: In Literature Resource Center, search for **phillis wheatley**. Click on the tabs near the top of the screen to view results in different categories - in this case, 3 biographical essays, 34 reference articles, 149 citations from MLAIB, etc.

[Literature Online \(LION\)](#) has many of the same resources as Literature Resource Center, along with a surprisingly complete collection of pre-20th century poetry, prose, and drama. You can limit your searches to literary works only, and limit by date, gender, ethnicity, or literary movement.

Sample search: Select the option to search **texts** (left column). Type **divine** in the keyword and **phillis wheatley** in the author field. The word appears 91 times in 56 poems. Click on the title of a poem to read it. Note that your keyword is highlighted.

Finding scholarly journal articles

[MLA International Bibliography \(MLAIB\)](#) is the best resource for finding scholarly journal articles about literature. To get the full text of the article, click on “Find article @ UVa Libraries”, or look up the journal title in VIRGO.

Sample search: In the MLAIB, click on the link for **advanced search** on the left side of the screen. Type **ralph waldo emerson** into the first search box, and **education** into the second, and check the box that limits results to refereed publications. Returns 7 articles. Use the **Find This @UVa Libraries** link to get the full text of the articles. If the citation is for a book, check VIRGO to see if we own it.

Finding historical newspapers and journal articles

[ProQuest Historical Newspapers:](#) Use this database to find newspaper articles more than 20 years old. It contains full text of four major US newspapers (NY Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune) from their initial dates of publication (as early as 1851).

Sample search: Type **william faulkner** in the first search box and **university of virginia** in the second search box. By default, the oldest results are returned first; you can use the pull-down menu to sort by relevance instead. To read an article, click on its title.

[Periodicals Index Online:](#) Indexes the contents of thousands of scholarly and popular journals in the humanities and social sciences, in 40 languages. Mostly 19th and 20th coverage, although a few titles go back earlier. Some full-text articles are available via links to JSTOR or to a companion database, [Periodicals Archive Online](#).

[American Periodicals Series:](#) Full text of 1000+ journals published in the U.S. from 1740-1900.

Finding current newspaper articles

For criticism and analysis of contemporary literature, newspapers are sometimes a better resource than scholarly journals. [LexisNexis](#) can help you find reviews and interviews.

Sample search: Type “**sherman alexie**” into the main search box. Check off the box for **TV and Radio Broadcast Transcripts**, and run the search. It should return transcripts of interviews from ABC, CBS, NPR, and many other sources. To read a transcript, click on its title.

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>

RefWorks (citation management software): <http://www.refworks.com>

<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/subjects/English/guides/ENLT213.pdf>

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