

## Library Research Guide for ENLT 224M: Studies in Drama

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### 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>

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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:** kushner tony [author]

'how i learned to drive' [title]

american drama 20th century [subject]

Truncation: **theat\$** for theater, theatre, theatrical, etc.

Booleans: **theater or drama; edson and biography**

'african american' and (drama or theater) and bibliography

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### 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:** Search for **paula vogel**. Click on the tabs near the top of the screen to view results in different categories – biographical essays, reviews and reference articles, citations from MLAIB, etc.

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### Where can I find scholarly journal articles?

[MLA International Bibliography \(MLAIB\)](#) is the best resource for finding scholarly journal articles about literature. 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 and is a good supplement to the MLAIB.

**Sample search:** Click on the **advanced search** link. Type **tony kushner** in the first search box, **angels in america** in the second, and **homosexual\*** (for homosexual, homosexuality, etc.) in the third. Returns 21 citations – journal articles, but also books and dissertations. Follow the links to full text when available; otherwise use the **Find This @ UVa Libraries** link to try to get to the full article.

[InfoTrac OneFile](#) is a general academic database, with scholarly and popular articles going back to about 1980. This is a good place to check if you don't get many results in MLAIB.

**Sample search:** Go to **advanced search**. Type **john patrick shanley** in the first search box, and **doubt** in the second. Click on the tabs to view the different categories of results (magazine articles, academic journal articles, and news articles).

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*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 **General News** from the 1<sup>st</sup> pulldown menu, and **Major Papers** from the second. Type **paula vogel** in the 1<sup>st</sup> search field, and **how i learned to drive** in the second. Select **All available dates** as the date range. Returns 195 results; click on the link to sort them by relevance.

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*Other Reference Sources*

[Black Drama](#): A new database that contains searchable full text of over 1200 plays by African American dramatists, including many on your syllabus. Also includes playbills and other production information.

**Sample search:** Click on the Find Authors link and search for **august wilson**. You will find published and unpublished plays. The related resources section contains several playbills, including one for *The Piano Lesson*.

[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.