

**Library Research Guide for ENLT252:
Mestizas, Halfies, and Other Hyphenated Americans (Smith)**
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.

Librarian for English:
Christine Ruotolo
ruotolo@virginia.edu
434-982-2677

General reference:
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: **sandra cisneros** [author]
'borderlands la frontera' [title]
asian american fiction [subject]

Truncation: **raci\$** for racial, racist, racism, etc.

Booleans: **latina or chicana or mestiza**

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 (see also the [Literature Online \[LION\]](#) database, which has similar content).

Sample search: In Literature Resource Center, search for **danzy senna**. Click on the tabs near the top of the screen to view results in different categories – in this case, 2 biographical essays, 26 reference articles, 7 citations from MLAIB, etc.

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. (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: In the MLAIB, type **mestiza** in the search box; returns 55 citations of books and journal 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. Note that many of the results for this search are in Spanish; you can go back to the main search screen and select "English" to limit your results to English-language works.

[InfoTrac OneFile](#) is a more general database, with popular and scholarly articles going back to 1980. Many articles are available in full text. Because it covers many subjects, including literature, history, and sociology, it can be a great source for researching cultural issues.

Sample search: In the search box, type “one drop” and rac* (for race, racial, etc.) in the Basic Search field and leave the Keyword button checked. Click on the Academic Journals tab to view citations for the 14 results in that category. Click on the full-text link where available to go directly to the articles; otherwise, use the **Find This @ UVa Libraries** link. See also the additional results under the Magazines and News tabs.

Finding current newspaper articles

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

Sample search: In the search box, type muslim-american* and veil. Check the box for “Major U.S. and World Publications,” and leave the date range set to the previous two years. Returns 23 newspaper articles and 3 magazine articles. To read an article, click on the title.

Finding older newspaper articles

[ProQuest Historical Newspapers:](#) Use this database to find newspaper articles more than 10 years old. It contains full text of five major US newspapers (including the NY Times and the Washington Post), dating back to their initial date of publication (mid to late 1800s).

Sample search: Go to the advanced search. Type “chinese exclusion act” into the first search box. By default, the oldest articles are returned first (going back to 1883 in this case). To sort the results by relevance, go down to the “Sort results” pull-down menu and select **Most relevant first**. To read an article, click on the title.

Selected Print Reference Sources (arranged by **call number** in the Alderman Reference Room)

American Immigrant Cultures: Builders of a Nation. Simon & Schuster, 1997. **E184 .A1 A63448**
Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America. Gale, 1995. **E184 .A1 G14 1995**
A Nation of Peoples: A Sourcebook on America's Multicultural Heritage. Greenwood Press, 1999. **E184 .A1 N2866 1999**
The African American Almanac. Gale, 2000. **E185 .A2528 2000**
Atlas of Asian-American History. Facts on File, 2002. **E184 .O6 A89 2002**
The Hispanic American Almanac: A Reference Work on Hispanics in the United States. Gale, 2003. **E184 .S75 H557 2003**

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>

<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/subjects/English/guides/ENLT252.pdf>