

Library Research Guide for ENGN/MC 482: African-American 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>

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: **hansberry lorraine** [author]

'fires in the mirror' [title]

african american theater [subject]

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

Booleans: **theater or drama; black or 'african american'; baraka and biography**
'african american' and (drama or theater) and bibliography

FULL-TEXT LITERATURE DATABASES

North American Theatre Online: A new database that contains information about plays and productions, theaters, playwrights, and actors. It also includes searchable full text of over 1200 plays by African American dramatists, including many on your syllabus.

Sample search: Using the quick search box, search for **ed bullins**. You will find 61 published and unpublished plays. Click on the link for *Goin' A Buffalo* to read the full text of the play or find production information.

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 citations from MLAIB (see description below) and some full-text articles.

Sample search: Search for **Ed Bullins**. 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.

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: Click on the Author search link and search for **Anna Deavere Smith**. Click to access her author page. Resources include 23 article citations and 5 websites.

INDEXES FOR FINDING SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLES

[MLA International Bibliography \(MLAIB\)](#): 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.

Sample search: Type **baraka and dutchman** in the search box, and check the box that limits the search to refereed publications. Returns 8 citations (note the first one!)

[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: Type **baraka and dutchman** in the keywords field. Returns 35 citations.

NEWSPAPERS: OLD AND NEW

[LexisNexis](#): The best resource for finding recent newspaper articles (less than 10 years old).

Sample search: In the main search box, type **suzan-lori parks**. Check the boxes for Major U.S. and World Publications, and TV and Radio Broadcast Transcripts, and select **All available dates** as the date range. Note the news transcripts results, which include a number of interviews with the playwright.

[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 **ntozake shange** in the first search box, and **broadway** in the second. Results include the earliest reviews of *for colored girls...*

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.