

Library Research Guide for ENNC381: The Victorian Detective

Ms. Sigrid Anderson ☮ Summer 2006

Getting help with your research

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

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VIRGO

Search for general reference books about Victorian-era crime, or for works about specific cases or individuals

Sample searches: **thomas cream** [subject]
thomas and cream [keyword anywhere]
crim\$ and 19th century and (England or United States) [subject]

Biographies and general reference

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography: A monumental reference work profiling over 50,000 notable British men and women, from the pre-Roman era to the present, who “have left a mark for any reason, good, bad, or unusual.”

Wikipedia: Search by name, or check out the handy category page, [Murderers by Nationality](#). Wikipedia has entries on some obscure figures not listed in more conventional reference sources. However, because its content isn't formally edited or peer reviewed, all facts must be verified by other sources.

Newspaper articles - full text

Times Digital Archive: Searchable text of the London Times from 1785-1985, including articles, advertisements, illustrations, and photographs. The Times will be your most important primary resource.

Sample search: Type **thomas cream** in the search box and check the box to search entire article content. Further down on the screen, check the box to limit your search to articles the News section.

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: A searchable archive containing of four major US newspapers, dating back to their initial date of publication: the New York Times (1851-1999), the Wall Street Journal (1889-1995), the Chicago Tribune (1890-1969), and the Washington Post (1877-1987). Many UK crimes were reported in these papers.

Sample search: Type **cream** in the first search box and **murder** in the second. In the date range section, check the **From:** button and enter **1880** to **1895** in the text fields. Use the pull-down menu to sort results by relevance.

[Early American Newspapers, Series I, 1690-1876:](#) Searchable full text collection of early US newspapers, mostly from the East Coast. Many UK crimes were reported in these papers.

[American Periodicals Series:](#) Page images of American periodicals from 1740-1900. Similar in scope in function to Early American Newspapers.

Indexes to periodicals

[Periodicals Index Online:](#) Index of articles and book reviews from international humanities and social sciences journals published from 1770 to the 1990s. I

Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals: A database that indexes 45 of the most important periodicals published in Great Britain between 1824-1900. Available in print in the Alderman Reference Room (Z2005 .H6 1966 v.1-5) or on CD-ROM, which can be obtained from the Reference Desk and used on a specially designated workstation.

Poole's Index to Periodical Literature: A subject index of articles from almost 500 British and American periodicals, published from 1802-1906. Located near the front of the Alderman Reference Room (AI 3 .P7 1963).

19th Century Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature: A similar resource to Poole's, this extension of the Readers' Guide provides a subject index for about 50 British and American periodicals from 1890-1900. Located near the front of the Alderman Reference Room (AI 3 .R496)

Microfilm collections

Early English Newspapers: Go to the microform [online guides](#) and follow the instructions to search the titles of newspapers in this collection. All microforms are located on the 3rd floor of Alderman Library, and the staff there are always eager to help you find what you need.

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>
