FINDING BOOKS AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS

OBIS is the Oberlin College Library's online catalog; it lists most library materials. OBIS is searchable by **Author** or **Title** for a specific author or work, or by **Subject Heading** or **Keyword** for works about a topic, person, place, etc.

- **Subject Heading** searches are based on *Library of Congress Subject Headings* and search only the *Subjects* part of a catalog record
- **Keyword** searches find words, or a combination of words, that appear *anywhere* in a catalog record, including author, title, publisher, table of contents, and subjects.

*Writers can be searched as both **AUTHOR** (for writings by the person) and **SUBJECT** (for writings about the person and their works)*

Bechdel, Alison, 1960-
Brontë, Emily, 1818-1848
Faulkner, William, 1897-1962
Morrison, Toni
Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616

Useful subject subheadings:
-- Bibliography
-- Biography
-- Criticism and interpretation
-- Encyclopedias
-- Interviews

FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT WRITERS AND LITERARY WORKS THROUGH REFERENCE SOURCES

Connect from Databases tab in the Library home page search box, or use the Quick Links drop-down menu

Literature Resource Center (product from Gale Cengage Learning)
Literary Reference Center Plus (product from EBSCO)
These two databases provide biographical, bibliographical, and critical content on literary figures and their works from all time periods and genres. Information comes from reference works, books, and literary journals. Included are biographies, plot summaries, journal articles, reviews, and more.

FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT LITERARY MOVEMENTS, THEORIES, TECHNIQUES, AND CONCEPTS

The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory & Criticism. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
e-book, connect from OBIS, updated periodically
Includes articles on individual critics and theorists, critical and theoretical schools and movements, and the critical and theoretical innovations of specific countries and historical periods. It also treats related persons and fields that have been shaped by or have themselves shaped literary theory and criticism. Each entry includes a selective primary and secondary bibliography.

Literary Movements for Students: *Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Literary Movements*.
2nd ed. Detroit: Gale, Cengage Learning, 2009. (2 vols.)
e-book, connect from OBIS—Gale Virtual Reference Library version recommended

RESOURCES ON WRITING IN LITERATURE

The Wiley Guide to Writing Essays about Literature. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2014. e-book

Writing about Literature. 13th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2012.
Main Library PE1479.C7 R59 2012

A Contemporary Guide to Literary Terms: with Strategies for Writing Essays about Literature. 3rd ed.
Boston, MA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2012.
Main Library PN44.5 .B332 2012

FINDING CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION ON HISTORICAL TIME PERIODS

The Oxford Companion to Shakespeare. 2nd ed. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2015.
e-book, connect from OBIS

All Things Shakespeare: An Encyclopedia of Shakespeare's World. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press,
2002.
Main Reference PR2892 .O56 2002 (2 vols.)

Europe 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World. New York : Charles Scribner's Sons :
Thomson/Gale, 2004.
e-book, connect from OBIS; also in print at Main Reference D209 .E97 2004 (6 vols.)

Encyclopedia of European Social History from 1350 to 2000. New York: Scribner, 2001.
e-book, connect from OBIS; also in print at Main Reference HN373 .E63 2000 (6 vols.)

Encyclopedia of the Victorian Era. Danbury, CT: Grolier Academic Reference, 2004.
Main Reference DA550 .E527 2004 (4 vols.)

The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2013.
e-book, connect from OBIS; Main Reference E169.1 .O945 2013 (2 vols.)

World of a Slave: Encyclopedia of the Material Life of Slaves in the United States. Santa Barbara, CA:
Greenwood, 2011.
Main Reference E441 .W895 2011

USING DATABASES TO FIND LITERARY CRITICISM IN SCHOLARLY JOURNALS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Connect from Databases tab in the Library home page search box, or use the Quick Links drop-down menu

To determine if the library has a particular journal, Use "360 Link to Full Text" or "Find It!" when available in research
databases*, or select the* **Journal Finder** *tab on Library home page or from the Quick Links pull-down menu*

MLA International Bibliography
Indexes books and articles from 6,000+ journals in world literature and modern language.

The World Shakespeare Bibliography Online
Published for the Folger Shakespeare Library by Johns Hopkins University Press. Annotated entries
for books, articles, book reviews, dissertations, theatrical productions, theater reviews, films, audio
recordings, electronic media, and other scholarly and popular materials related to Shakespeare.

Academic Search Complete
Indexes articles from 13,000+ general and academic periodicals in all disciplines; over 65% of the
journals indexed include full text, and most are peer-reviewed.

USING DATABASES TO FIND ARTICLES IN POPULAR AND CONTEMPORARY MAGAZINES (JOURNALISM, REVIEWS)

MasterFILE Premier (covers 20th c.-present)
Indexes 2,400+ general, mass market, and consumer-oriented magazines covering nearly all
subjects; around 70% include full text.

Readers' Guide Retrospective (covers 1890-1982) and *Readers' Guide Abstracts* (covers 1983-present)
These two related databases index articles published in U.S. and Canadian popular, general interest magazines from the late 19th c. to the present.

CITING YOUR SOURCES

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 8th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2016.
Main Reference LB2369 .G53 2016

Purdue Online Writing Lab (aka the OWL). Maintained by Perdue University.
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/
See the Research and Citation section for examples of how to cite resources using APA, MLA, and Chicago citation styles.

HOW TO GET MATERIALS NOT AVAILABLE AT OBERLIN

OhioLINK/SearchOhio

- combines the holdings of 120 colleges and university libraries, and 28 public library systems, in Ohio
  does not include delivery of journal articles – see section below on ILL
- to request: do-it-yourself online searching and requesting
- Barcode is the number on the back of your OCID (*not* your T-number)
- how long it takes: allow 3-4 business days
- loan period: 3 weeks + up to 6 three-week renewals if item has not been requested by someone else

Interlibrary Loan (ILL or ILLiad)

- use for: articles in journals not available at Oberlin, books not available from OhioLINK
- how it works: libraries lend materials to each other; for journal articles they may send scanned pdfs
- to request: select "ILLiad/Interlibrary Loan" from the Quick Links menu on the Library's home page; set up an account; enter and track ILL requests online
- how long it takes: allow 1-2 weeks; many articles arrive much more quickly
- loan period: journal articles are yours to keep; loan period for books varies

HOW TO GET RESEARCH HELP AT THE LIBRARY

Drop-in help at the Research Help Desk. Just stop by and tell us what you need
Monday–Thursday:	10am–noon, 1–5pm, & 7pm–midnight
Friday:	10am–noon & 1–5pm
Weekend:	Sat.: 2–4 pm, Sunday: 1–5pm & 7 pm–midnight

IM. Chat online with a member of Oberlin's reference staff (ObieRef) – hours same as above

Phone. 440-775-5031 – hours same as above

Email. mailto:reference@oberlin.edu – any time

Research appointment. Sign up online from the library home page