

**Literature Databases
Winter 2004**

	Coverage	Strengths	Weaknesses	other
MLA Bibliography CRITICISM	1963-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 1.5 million citations from more than 4,400 journals. - Also indexes book chapters. - Thesaurus. - "Check BYU Holdings" feature (for books and print & e-journals). - Link to JSTOR. - Link to Project Muse holdings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not all full-text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Also the MLA Directory of Periodicals (PATRONS OFTEN CONFUSE THESE TWO).
ABELL (Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature) CRITICISM	1920-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 750,000 records: articles, book reviews. - Links to the full text of 104 journals. - (Hopefully) Soon to have link to JSTOR holdings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not all full-text. - No "Check BYU Holdings" feature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accessed through LION (Literature Online).
JSTOR (Language and Literature) CRITICISM	Depends, some journals go back to the 1800s.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full-text. - Coverage goes back to first issue of each journal. - Publication quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Only) 48 journals (Language and Literature), but deep coverage within each journal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adobe Acrobat PDF files.
Project Muse CRITICISM	About last 3-5 years maximum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full-text of over 200 scholarly journals (most Humanities and Social Science). - Articles indicate proper pagination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wide coverage of journal titles, but thin coverage within each journal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reformatted HTML text.

LRC (Literature Resource Center) BIOGRAPHY / WWW SITES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dictionary of Literary Biography (DLB). - Contemporary Authors. - Literary Criticism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great for literary biographies. - e-versions of DLB, CA, CLC, etc - Web site links. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not very sophisticated article searching. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Off-campus access.
LION (Literature Online) PRIMARY TEXTS / CRIT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20 versions of the Bible. - 13 versions of Shakespeare. - ABELL. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Searchable texts: Bible, Shakespeare. - Article searching via ABELL. - Web site links. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requires exact spelling (often archaic). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Off-campus access.

*** A NEW ELECTRONIC RESOURCE:**

Masterplots Complete on CD that never worked in Periodicals has been replaced by *Magill on Literature* – this is THE PLACE TO GO FOR PLOT SUMMARIES.

Literature Searching

BEGIN WITH

- Research Guides (covering print sources, catalog searching, and periodical indexes).
- Resources by Subject (electronic resources and periodical indexes grouped by type).

* **Question:** English vs. American literature? There's no real difference as far as the major databases are concerned. (The exception would involve something like primary vs. secondary sources – old newspapers, journals are primary sources; criticism, commentary is secondary stuff.)

* **Question:** “Recommended” – what does that mean? (1) That these databases are good places to start, (2) that they're hard to pigeon-hole as only for criticism, or biography, or whatever.

WHEN TO REFER? (Some suggestions . . .)

- If the search leaves periodicals and moves into the monograph collection.
- If the search involves finding hard-to-find primary sources.
- If, by volume, repetition, and “triviality” you think the assignment is a(n impossible) “scavenger hunt” – we want to know about these so we can contact the professor.

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1. Where do I go to find out about some basics on O. Henry?
 2. How do I find a book on O. Henry?
 3. Where do I find a web site on O. Henry? (And NOT just using “google.com”)
 4. How do I find a plot summary of O. Henry's “A Furnished Room”?
 5. How do I find a journal article on O. Henry's “A Furnished Room”? (NOTE: In addition to periodical indexes, use a subject search in the catalog for a bibliography on O. Henry.)
 6. What do you do if a search doesn't bring up much / enough?
 7. Why follow the “Check BYU Holdings” link? *(on MLA hits)*