

English 203 – A Research Guide

This research guide is to help you find writers' biographies, literature reviews and criticisms, and book reviews by using library's online databases and book collections.

Online databases

Basics about online databases

- Databases index articles from published items such as journals, books, newspapers and magazines;
- Databases are searchable online and provide access to full-text articles;
- Databases also provide citation information about the articles, which includes author, title of article, title of publication, publisher, date of publication, subjects, and abstract.

To access online databases on or off campus

- Go to the library's homepage at: <http://www.mhc.ab.ca/library>
- Select "Journal, Magazine and Newspaper Articles"
- Select database subject area
- Select database you want to search and click on "Connect to Database"
- If you are on campus, it will take you directly to the database search interface.
- For off campus access, the login ID is your 9 digit student ID number.

Suggested subject areas and databases

Subject:

- English (Language/Literature): **Literature Resource Center**; *Canadian Literary Centre*; *Contemporary Authors*; **Literary Reference Center**
- Canadian Studies: *CBCA Complete*

Suggested keywords and subject terms

Biography or biographical study	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the name of the writer, e.g. Douglas Coupland▪ and limit the source type/content type to <u>biographies</u>
Literature review and criticism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the name of the work, e.g. <i>The Rez Sisters</i>▪ and limit the source type/content type to <u>literary criticism/literature criticism</u>
Book review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the name of the work, e.g. <i>The Gum Thief</i>▪ and limit the source type/content type to <u>reviews</u>

Database searching tip

Limiters (full text, peer reviewed, page number, publication title, publication date range...) can be used to make the search more focused.

Books

Search for books

To search for books that are available at the Medicine Hat College Library

- Go to the library's homepage at: <http://www.mhc.ab.ca/library>
- Select "Books and Audiovisuals"
- Select Basic Keyword or Advanced Keyword

Suggested keywords

the name of the writer (e.g. Edward Albee) and (biography or criticism)

the name of the work (e.g. Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf) and criticism

Suggested reference books

<i>Encyclopedia of Literature in Canada</i>	PS 8015 E52 2002
<i>Contemporary Canadian Authors</i>	PS 8081 C66
<i>The Oxford Companion to Canadian Literature</i>	PS 8015 O93 1997
<i>American Writers</i>	PS 129 A55
<i>The Oxford Companion to American Literature</i>	PS 21 H3 1995
<i>Drama Criticism</i>	PN 1707 D72

Need help?

Please contact us:

- By phone 403-529-3867
- In person: drop by the Information Desk
- By email: contact us by  Ask A Question! , the province-wide email question service - answers provided within 24 hours!
- By Instant Messenger: <http://www.mhc.ab.ca/library/im/default.html>
- By Text Message: 403-866-5872