

English 202 – Resources Pathfinder

You are writing a research essay for this particular assignment. To complete this assignment, you will be required to cite/use at least two additional resources in your essay. This guide will outline some services and suggestions for the acquisition of those resources.

SEARCH TERMS FOR LOCATING CRITICAL INFORMATION

It is relatively easy to locate critical information, whether it is located in the library (in electronic or print formats) or through the World Wide Web. In either instance, you will need to employ a series of terms that will help you locate the materials.

Keywords that you should consider employing to locate general sources include:

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|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| ~ Antigone | ~ “Hard Times” | ~ Ibsen, Henrik |
| ~ “Twelfth Night” | ~ Sophocles | ~ Dickens, Charles |
| ~ “A Doll House” | ~ Shakespeare, William | |

The preceding terms can be paired with the following terms to help you narrow your search:

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--|
| ~ criticism | ~ evaluation | ~ OR other keywords that you deem appropriate |
| ~ interpretation | ~ analysis | |
| ~ evaluation | | |

It is important to note that there is more than one way to describe anything, so mix and match your terms to yield the best possible search results.

In the library’s online catalogue (<http://darius.uleth.ca/search~S2>), use the word AND to connect terms from one list to another when employing a keyword search to find print resources in the library.

Online search engines (i.e., A9, Google, Yahoo, etc.) do not require you to use AND to connect terms – those search tools assume that for you

INTERLIBRARY LOAN SERVICE (ILL; <http://www.mhc.ab.ca/library/interlibraryloans.html>)

No one library can hold all the resources that you need to complete your assignments. It is for this reason that libraries have ILL services. If the resource is not here, but located elsewhere in North America, we can attempt to order it in.

There is no cost to order a book and a \$.10/page charge for periodical (i.e., journals, magazines, and newspapers) articles. For more information on ILL services, visit: <http://www.mhc.ab.ca/library/interlibraryloans.html>; or to place your order, go to: http://darius.uleth.ca/screens/illreq_s2.html. Both are linked to from the library’s homepage.

It does take time to have the material shipped, so do not procrastinate.

ONLINE CATALOGUES (OPACs; <http://darius.uleth.ca/search~S2>)

OPACs are your portal to print and audiovisual resources in the library. When you search the OPAC, you will be presented with a list of resources located in the library. You can locate our OPAC at: <http://darius.uleth.ca/search~S2>; or select the “Books and Audiovisuals” link from the library’s homepage. The catalogue will provide all of the essential bibliographic information about the resource (critical for your *Works Cited* list), location, and availability. Additionally, you can place holds and renew materials through the OPAC.

There are many other OPACs available. You can locate a brief list at: <http://www.mhc.ab.ca/library/otherlibraries.html>. Other OPACs that you might employ will include The Alberta Library (TAL; <http://www.talonline.ca>) and the National Library of Canada (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/amicus/>). Each

has the ability to search more than 230 and 1300 libraries across the province and country, respectively. If you locate a resource that you need, use the ILL service to acquire it.

DATABASE/ONLINE PERIODICAL INDEXES (<http://www.mhc.ab.ca/library/databases>)

If you cannot find enough information amongst the library's book and audiovisual resources, use any of the databases/online periodical indexes (<http://www.mhc.ab.ca/library/databases>). Databases will help you locate articles in periodical publications (i.e., journals, magazines, and newspapers). Databases that you might want to use include:

- ~ any under the *English (Language and Literature)* heading
- ~ any under the *General/Multidisciplinary* heading
- ~ any other database that you think is relevant to your needs

The databases do provide a number of filters that will allow you to narrow your search parameters. Among the key filters are the: *Full Text* option, which will return articles that are immediately available; and the *Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals* option, which will limit your search to academic articles. In either case be aware that they are filters and things can slip through like any filter.



Find It is a collection of tools that will help you locate periodical titles from within the databases. The components that you might employ most often are the *Periodical Link Resolver* and the *Interlibrary Loan Request* – both of which are embedded in the databases. They will help you locate full-text articles in other databases or place interlibrary loans. For more information on the service, visit: <http://www.mhc.ab.ca/library/Find%20It/>.

WEB SEARCHES

When searching the Web, you must always be critical of any source that you encounter. Consider the following criteria when examining a Web document: *authority*, *scope*, *currency*, *purpose*, *accuracy*, and *usability*. For more information about the question you should be asking yourself as you examine a Web page, visit: <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/instruction/science/evalweb.pdf>.

Also try a source like Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.ca/>) that tries to limit your search to more academically oriented sites, but be aware that it is not entirely perfect either.

PHRASE SEARCHING

Phrase searching allows you to look for very specific information. By putting a series of words between quotation marks, search tools (such as an OPAC, database, or Google) will look for that particular set of words.

- ~ "Twelfth Night"; "A Doll House"; "Hard Times"

TRUNCATION

Truncation allows you to find a lot of information quickly. Instead of typing every variant of a word, use an asterisk (*) symbol (e.g., *educat** = educate, educated, educates, education, etc.; *critic** = critic, critical, criticism, etc.). Truncation works in most OPACs and databases.

NEED MORE HELP? (<http://www.mhc.ab.ca/library/askus.html>)

If you need additional help, visit the library's Information Desk – or any of the other ways documented at: <http://www.mhc.ab.ca/library/askus.html>.