



Resources for ENGL 299 “Introduction to the Advanced Study of Literature”
Cynthia H. Comer, Reference & Instruction Dept., Oberlin College Library

FINDING BOOKS AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS

OBIS is the Oberlin College Library’s online catalog; it lists most library materials. Online borrowing is available through the **OhioLINK Library Catalog**, which combines the holdings of 120 libraries at Ohio colleges and universities, and through **SearchOhio**, which does the same for 28 Ohio public library systems. All three catalogs are 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)*

Reed, Ishmael, 1938-
Şālih, al-Tayyib
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

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

FINDING CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION ON HISTORICAL TIME PERIODS

A Companion to English Renaissance Literature and Culture. Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 2000.
Main Library PR411 .C66 2000

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

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

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

Oxford African American Studies Center—select from Databases tab on library home page
An online searchable collection of articles, images, maps, and primary source documents from reference titles published by Oxford University Press; covers African American and African and African diaspora history and culture. Includes content from *Encyclopedia of African American history 1619-1895: From the Colonial Period to the Age of Frederick Douglass* and *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present*.

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

Oxford Islamic Studies Online—select from Databases tab on library home page
An online searchable collection of articles, images, maps, and primary source documents from reference titles published by Oxford University Press; covers Islamic history, concepts, people, practices, politics, and culture. Includes content from *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World* (6 vols.), *The Islamic World: Past and Present* (3 vols.), and *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Women* (2 vols.).

Cultural Sociology of the Middle East, Asia, & Africa: An Encyclopedia. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, 2012. e-book (Sage platform recommended)
V.1 Middle East, V.2 Africa, V.3 East and Southeast Asia, V.4 South, Central, and West Asia

The Routledge Encyclopedia of Arabic Literature. London : Routledge, 2010.
on order

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 periodical articles 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.

Humanities International Complete.

Indexes journals, books, and other sources on all aspects of the humanities, with particular focus on literary, scholarly and creative thought.

Academic Search Complete. (Dates covered vary by journal title.)

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 MAGAZINES (JOURNALISM, REVIEWS)

MasterFILE Premier

Indexes 2,400+ general, mass market, and consumer-oriented magazines covering nearly all subjects; around 70% include full text.

Readers' Guide Abstracts (covers 1983-present) and *Readers' Guide Retrospective* (covers 1890-1982)

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 MLA style.

HOW TO GET MATERIALS NOT AVAILABLE AT OBERLIN

OhioLINK/SearchOhio

- how it works: 115 Ohio library systems lend materials (primarily books) to each other
☞ *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
- 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. reference@oberlin.edu – any time

Research appointment. Sign up online from the library home page