

English Literature Database Guide

DATABASE	STRENGTHS/WEAKNESSES OF DATABASE	SPECIAL FEATURES & LIMITS
*MLA Bibliography, 1926-	<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indexes scholarly books, bk. chapters, & 4,000+ journals in literature, languages, linguistics, folklore Most journal titles of any literature database <p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No abstracts/summaries; few subject headings. <p>WE CANNOT GET DISSERTATIONS!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit to English language (bottom of screen) May limit to journal articles (publication type) Search author as subject: Click on “Names as subjects” in blue toolbar OR pull down menu next to search box & change to Primary Subject Author. Search title as subject: Locate one relevant record; click on Primary subject work link Exact phrase – quotation marks
*Humanities International Complete	<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes <i>full text</i> of 770+ journals; indexes 2000+ journals, some back to 1960s Includes abstracts (better keyword searching) Helpful subject headings/links 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit to English language (bottom of screen) Under “Refine Search” limit to: Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals Search author as subject: Change one pull-down menu to “People”
Humanities & Social Sciences Retrospective, 1907-1984	<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indexing goes back to 1907 Scope is beyond literature, allowing for serendipitous discoveries Includes subject headings <p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No abstracts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended: In keyword menu choice, <i>limit to specific word form</i> by using quotation marks. E.g., <i>creative</i> retrieves: creative, creativity, etc. “Creative” retrieves only the word <i>creative</i>. Exact phrase: Use quotation marks.
JSTOR Full-text backfiles from selected Humanities & other journals. Includes v.1 of all journals to approx. 3-5 years before current year	<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All full text; all scholarly journals <p><u>Difference:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively small number of literature journals (about 60) BUT searches full text, retrieving more articles than MLA, Humanities... No subject headings or abstracts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exact phrase: Use quotation marks Limit to articles (excludes reviews): Check “article” box below search boxes Narrow results: Change pull-down menu to “item title” Arrange by date: For recent articles, scroll down on search screen and add year range.
WorldCat (FirstSearch)	<p><u>Searches books, dvds, etc. NOT articles</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit to English Search author as subject: Pull-down options on one search box; change to “Subject – Named Person” Arrange by date: Scroll down & add dates

*MLA & Humanities International Complete (and any other combination of Ebscohost databases) can be searched together. Click on blue “Choose Databases” link, select databases to search and click on “OK” button at bottom of screen.