

LITERARY RESEARCH



USING A LIBRARY CATALOG : FINDING BOOKS

The easiest way to do literary research is to use **Subject Headings**
You can either do **Keyword** or **Alphabetical** searches using **Subjects**

To locate books about a writer

- **Basic Keyword** search : type in the author's name in the Subject Keyword box
- **Alphabetical** search : choose *Subjects-Library of Congress* from the drop-down box. Type in the Last name, First name of the author in the box. Scan the headings that come up, and explore books in them. Look especially for the heading **Criticism and interpretation**.

To locate books about a theme

- **Basic Keyword** search : type in a theme in the Subject Keyword box. Example : *memory* or *childhood*. Or type in the theme and a writer's name in the General keyword box. Example : *memory proust*
- **Alphabetical** search : choose *Subjects-Library of Congress* from the drop-down box. Type in the theme. Scan the headings that come up, and explore books in them.

To locate books about a particular work

- **Basic Keyword** search : type in a word or 2 from the title of the book in the Subject Keyword box. Example : *baudelaire fleurs* or *recherche perdu* .
- **Alphabetical** search : choose *Subjects-Library of Congress* from the drop-down box. Type in last name, first name of author. Scan the headings for one that includes the title of the book.

For all of the above searches :

- When you find a book that is on your topic and looks promising, always click on the **Subjects in the record**. Follow the various places these Subjects take you.
- Always explore any **bibliographies** in the books you find.



FINDING ARTICLES

The best databases to use for literary research are :

- **MLA International Bibliography**
- **Humanities Fulltext**. With this database, you can cross search Art Abstracts, Essay & General Literature, and others that may be useful.
- **Arts & Humanities Citation Index**

Not everything is online :

The most valuable index to French literature and film is a book, or a series of books :

Bibliographie der französischen Literaturwissenschaft

The best source for French language books, articles, and theses. Each volume has a section on individual time periods, plus one on generalities (including Cinéma) and French literature outside France. A bit cumbersome; you have to search a volume for each year, but well worth the effort. Many resources not in any database.

General Reference: Z 2171.B56 (1956-present)



OTHER RESOURCES

WorldCat

An extremely large database of all US research libraries. What JHU doesn't have can be borrowed elsewhere through our InterLibrary Services. Request materials directly from the database.

Available from the Libraries Web site

Literature Resource Center :

The Literature Resource Center (LRC) provides biographies, bibliographies, and critical analyses of more than 120,000 authors from every age and literary discipline. LRC includes full text of or references to series, periodical articles, critical essays, overviews, plot summaries, explications, web sites, author biographies, and author portraits.

Available from the Libraries Web site under *Online Resources By Subject*

Electronic Texts :

There are a large number of e-texts available in French studies. See this guide :

<http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/french/etexts.html>

Or look on the Libraries Web site under *Online Resources By Subject* (French Literature, or any other subject)

Subject Guides Online

There are guides to research in many subjects available from the JHU Libraries. See:

<http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/subjectguides.html>