# Useful Databases for Literature

## Step One: Sign into the Library and start with the databases

1. ** MLA International Bibliography:** Has articles on literary criticism & social theory; Best database for topics like “metaphor” and “character”  
   MLA Int’l Bib may “point” to where items are located in other DBs.
2. ** Academic Search Complete:** Literary criticism & social theory  
3. ** JSTOR:** Literary criticism & social theory  
4. ** Project Muse:** Literary criticism & social theory

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## Useful Databases for Primary Source & Specific Literature

- **EEBO Early English Books Online, 1473 -1700**
- **Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO), 1700-1800**
- **Shakespeare Survey Online**
- **BBC Shakespeare Film Collection**
- **Brepolis Medieval Bibliographies Online**
- **Works of Ben Jonson Online**
- **Emily Dickinson Archive**
- **L’Année Philologique (Greek and Roman Antiquity)**

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## Useful Databases for Literature + Social Science

- ** Academic Search Complete**
- **JSTOR**
- **Project Muse**
- **PsychInfo & PsychArticles (Psychology-based themes)**
- **SocIndex (Sociology-based themes)**
- **Anthropology Plus & AnthroSource (Human culture themes)**

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## Generally Useful

- **Oxford Reference Online** (Variety of encyclopedias)
- **Oxford English Dictionary**
- **MLA Directory of Periodicals**  
  (Find MLA journals of interest)

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## My Notes

1. Remember to use interlibrary loan (BeachReach & CSU+) if CSULB does not have the item I want.
2. **STEP TWO:** Search for the topic you want to analyze

\[(\text{twain, mark OR clemens, samuel}) \text{ AND poverty} \]
\[\text{pride and prejudice NOT darcy} \]

Try the topic in “quotes” if you want to keep the string of words together in your search:

“frankenstein’s monster”

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**MLA International Bibliography**
MLAIB has special search abilities to look for articles written about particular works or authors:

On the dropdown menu next to the search boxes (instead of just using “keyword search” or “search all”).

Pride and Prejudice + SK **Primary Subject Work** = articles about the novel Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen + SA **Primary Subject Author** = articles about the author Jane Austen

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**Searching outside of Author and Work**
Genres, literary terms, periods of time can be meshed together in your searches to find articles about topics you can apply to your work. This is especially helpful when little has been written about a work or an author.

\[\text{gothi* AND sublim* = all words that begin with gothi + all words that begin with sublim} \]
\[\text{gothic / gothicism} \quad \text{||} \quad \text{sublime / subliminality} \]
\[\text{feminis* AND male characters} \]
\[\text{psych* AND irony} \]
\[\text{modern AND renaissance AND landscape} \]
\[\text{victorian* AND metaphor} \]
\[\text{(satire OR irony) AND shakespeare*} \]

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**Consider that periods & names may be spelled in different ways in different databases.**

18th Century
Eighteenth Century

**In EEBO:**
Pembroke, Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of

**In MLA Int’l Bib:**
Herbert, Mary, Countess Of Pembroke

If the database has a Thesaurus and/or a Names as Subjects list, look up the preferred term/name spelling. Find these preferences as Subject Terms in the database as well.