Searching Topics about Shakespeare

Where to Begin

Sign-In to the Library and look at the databases:
CSULB.edu > Menu > Library > Services > My Library Account > Student & Employee Login > Beach ID & PW > Databases
then search for the databases by first letter.

The top databases listed on my library guide (libguide) are your best initial sources for researching analysis about Shakespeare.

**MLA International Bibliography** - top choice for Formalist (close-text) analysis
**Academic Search Complete**
**JSTOR**
**Project Muse**

Try all 4 databases to examine social and political analysis of Shakespeare's works.
Search strategies and more suggestions on the libguide: [csulb.libguides.com/engl_litmajors](csulb.libguides.com/engl_litmajors)

Specialty Databases

**Shakespeare Survey Online**
Run by Cambridge U Press in the UK, using this database takes patience. See page 2 of this handout for help.
The database is full of authentic, peer-reviewed analysis of Shakespeare's works.

**EEBO** - Early English Books Online
Scans of creative works dated 1473–1700, included Shakespeare's plays.
Using this database takes patience. See pages 3-4 of this handout for help.

**BBC Shakespeare Film Collection**
Streaming video of historic productions of Shakespeare's plays.

Strategy

Only MLA International Bibliography allows you to search by SA Primary Subject Author and SK Primary Subject Work. (See these in the dropdowns to the right of the search boxes.)

Remember that you are often researching your own ideas about a work, so searching on Shakespeare AND Othello may not yield the discussion points you are interested in.

1. Try Keywords (your ideas) in the searches together to discover concepts, rather than focusing on the play itself.
   Concept analysis can be applied to your reading of the play.
   See Step 2 of my Search Strategies handout at: [csulb.libguides.com/engl_litmajors](csulb.libguides.com/engl_litmajors)

2. Consider key elements of the play
   Othello AND handkerchief  Macbeth AND blood  Romeo and Juliet AND marriage

3. Find an article you like and look at its SUBJECT terms (may be called Topics or Descriptors) to start building a vocabulary of words used in professional discussion. It only takes one article to begin; Subject terms often link to other, similar discussions.
Start your search here. Try Othello AND handkerchief.

After you see the page of results, you can refine it for immediate PDF access (though you can use BeachReach to get an article in 24-48 hours.)

Choose “Only show...”

Download the PDF and then Control + F or Command + F on your keyboard to search it for your terms - in this case, you can search for “handkerchief.”

Clicking on the “doi” (digital object identifier) will bring you to the list of articles within a book - meaning you can see the whole book and all of its essays, which may be related to your topic. Some essays are stand-alone, some are from a book.
EEBO: Early English Books Online

CSULB HomePage > Menu > Library > Services > My Library Account > Beach ID & PW > Databases > E

Early English Books Online (EEBO)
Full-Text scans of historic books and documents

What should I consider during my research?

- Every variation of the author's name and/or the title of the work.
  - Spelling will matter, and you may have to try a variety of approaches.
    - Historic names, royal titles, married and single names - note them all.
- Make note of the type of information you want - use the Filters on Left Side of search results.

EEBO Practice Search

Search > Author Keywords > Wroth
Scroll down to find one text authored by Mary Wroth

Click on the checkbox to collect the document in Marked List - to see all your selections in one place later; go to Marked List at the top of the screen. This will be cleared as soon as you close out of the database so if you like, print the page (via screen shot or browser) with the citations and blurbs.

Use this icon to see the full text transcription. Not all items will have this available. If an item does have it you can search for words within the text. You can also print sections as you like.

Failed searches may happen when the author's name as we know it is not recorded as such on the document. Remember - these are scanned documents and they are cataloged accordingly - even using the Variance may not help if the name is simply not in the document itself.
EEBO Practice Search 2

Because we chose variations, the results of this search will produce versions of Othello that have Shakespeare's name printed with and without an "e" at the end.

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OneSearch Practice Search

Search > Mary Sidney

Limiters (on left):
  - Author/Creator > Pembroke, Mary Sidney Herbert
  - OR
  - Refine Pub Date to the period of time you want to explore (a nice way to find primary sources, too)

OneSearch is useful for searching name variations, as the metadata for the record will be possibly more extensive than the individual database. EEBO is part of OneSearch, and so all of its docs should be available in a OneSearch query. Also, the OneSearch result will have the MLA citation already formed, with only minor edition needed. (For help with the new MLA 8th Edition: style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide)

- Without OneSearch, we would need to know the title of Mary Sidney's work, as it is indexed in EEBO:

  *The tragedie of Antonie. Doone into English by the Countesse of Pembroke*

- Use OneSearch and limit to Available at CSULB in the Library to see what we have in physical texts.