The MLA International Bibliography database can help you find information on literature and related topics, such as language, linguistics, folklore, literary theory, literary criticism, and the dramatic arts.

When to use MLA International Bibliography

- Through the MLA International Bibliography you access millions of journal article citations that date back nearly 100 years. There are a few dissertations and books as well. English, Communications, Theater and Literature courses use this database to find sources.

How to Search

Open a browser to www.carlow.edu/library and click on the Find Articles link. You will see a list of all databases that the library offers arranged by subject area. The MLA International Bibliography database can be found under the heading Literature. Click on the MLA International Bibliography link to continue.

It is likely that you will hone in on the search boxes right away and you may want to jump into your search with some terms that you have in mind. Although the EBSCOhost search screen may seem familiar to the other databases, you will find MLA International Bibliography has some distinctions that are unique to the literary world which can help you find the right search terms before you begin. Note that in the blue banner across the top of the screen there are links to tools which can help you refine your search terms:
1. The *Thesaurus* can be helpful when looking for the right term for a concept. Use the *Browsing* search box for “postmodern,” for example, and you find that the database suggests “postmodern culture,” “postmodernism,” and “postmodern aesthetics.” You can plug these terms into the search boxes on the main search page to get more accurate and precise results than by making up the search terms on your own.

2. *MLA Directory of Periodicals* is the list of publications included in the database; and

3. *Names as Subjects* can be a helpful thesaurus for pseudonyms and exact names. Just remember to always type the author’s last name, then his/her first name! Search “Bachman, Richard” and you will find his pseudonym “King, Stephen.”

After you have determined which terms to use, click on the *New Search* button at the very top left corner of the screen to return to the main search page.

Type your terms into the search boxes. Bear in mind that not all of the citations in this database have the full text article available to you, so before you run the search you may want to check off *Linked Full Text* so that you are able to read/print the articles you find online, and also check off the *Grace Library Print Journal Collection* to see what holdings are available on the library shelves.

Click on the *Search* button to begin your search.

**Results List**

The results list will appear containing a list all of the articles that matched your search terms. Before you start perusing them, open up the frame on the left side of the screen in order to see how many results were returned. You can do this by clicking the double arrows that point right when closed. In the example below, “postmodern culture” was searched and 70 results were returned. Is that too many? If there are 200 or more results, most students would revise their search right away by adding another term to the search boxes above the results because the search was too broad.

When evaluating your results list, you will likely start by looking at the article title, which is the blue hyperlink. You can also see the article’s author, journal name and publication information, then the subject terms. If the full text is available, an *HTML Full Text* and/or *PDF Full Text* icon will appear above the *Notes*, which indicates whether the journal is available at Grace Library.
Viewing an Article

Click on an article title to see the citation information (article title, author, journal title, publication information) that you will need to write a bibliography. Scroll down to see the subject terms that will further more searching and observe that MLA has many different groupings of subject terms and areas that cover time periods, genres, and literature topics. Click on any of the blue hyperlinks to follow up on these ideas. Some articles will also have an abstract that summarizes the article’s main objectives. If the full text is available you will see it listed below the abstract or see a link to view it on another page.

**Postmodernism to Post-Crash: The New Ads in the New York Review of Books**

- **Authors**: Fleming, Bruce
- **Source**: Antioch Review (AR) 2010 Fall; 66 (4): 767-785. [Journal Detail]
- **Peer Reviewed**: No
- **ISSN**: 0003-5769
- **General Subject**: Subject Literature: American literature
- **Areas**: Period: 2000-2099
- **Genre**: prose
- **Subject Terms**: in The New York Review of Books ; relationship to advertisement ; publishing ; postmodernism
- **Document**: Publication Type: journal article
- **Language of Publication**: English
- **Update Code**: 201007
- **Sequence Numbers**: 2010-1-17291
- **Accession Number**: 200389455
- **Database**: MLA International Bibliography
- **Full Text Database**: OmnFile Full Text Select (H.W. Wilson)
- **Notes**: Grace Library does NOT own this journal in the print format. Search the journal title in the “Find Journal Titles” list at http://library.carlow.edu to see online availability.

How can the entire document be obtained if it is not offered by the database?

If you find an article you want that is not available as full text online, complete the RAPID ILL form accessible from the library’s home page to request the document from another library. A librarian will contact you to discuss the details if there are any costs involved.

Accessing MLA International Bibliography from Outside the Carlow Network

If you would like to access *MLA International Bibliography* from a computer not connected to the Carlow network, connect [www.carlow.edu/library](http://www.carlow.edu/library) and click on the *Off Campus Access* link located on the right hand side of the page. Log into the system using your Carlow Active Directory username and password (the same username and password that you use to log into lab computers). Additional instructions are available on the off campus web page to help you access library databases from off campus.

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