

How to Find Book Reviews

1. Determine the publication date of your book.

The date determines what index you use and, if a printed index, what volumes you search.

2. Try a general book review index.

Book Review Digest—Index to reviews of books published or distributed in the U.S. or Canada. A work of nonfiction must have received reviews in at least two of the magazines; fiction, in at least three. Includes short excerpts from the reviews.

Access: 1905–present: Available electronically from the Library’s home page under “Find...Articles/Databases” in the alphabetical list.

Book Review Index—Index to reviews in 600 magazines and journals. Covers more scholarly books.

Access: 1965–present: Available in paper format, in the Reference area.

Search the volumes covering the year the book was published plus 2-3 years after. It sometimes takes that long for a book to get reviewed and the review to get indexed.

3. Try a subject-specific periodical index.

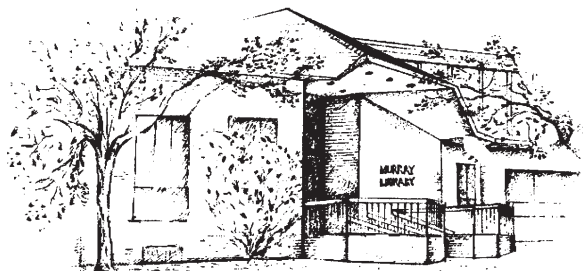
Most subject indexes include reviews of books published in the disciplines covered by the index.

In Academic Search Complete, one way to search for book reviews is to put the title in quotation marks (e.g., “Galileo’s Daughter”). You may wish to add the author’s last name to the search as well (Example: “Poisonwood Bible” and Kingsolver)

In the printed indexes, the reviews are usually listed in a section at the back. Sometimes, however, they are integrated with the articles or listed under “Book Reviews.” As with the general book review indexes, search the volumes covering the year the book was published plus 2-3 years after.

4. Retrieve the review as you would any periodical article.

Follow the steps on the *How to Find Periodical Articles* guide.



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