

# English Literature Database Guide

DATABASE	STRENGTHS/WEAKNESSES OF DATABASE	SPECIAL FEATURES & LIMITS
* <b>MLA Bibliography, 1926-</b>	<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indexes scholarly books, bk. chapters, &amp; 4,000+ journals in literature, languages, linguistics, folklore</li> <li>• 80+-year coverage (1926-)</li> <li>• Most journal titles of any literature database</li> </ul> <p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No abstracts/summaries; few subject headings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit to <b>English language</b> (bottom of screen)</li> <li>• May limit to <b>journal articles</b> (publication type)</li> <li>• <b>Search author as subject:</b> Click on “Names as subjects” in blue toolbar</li> <li>• <b>Search title as subject:</b> Locate one relevant record; click on <b>Primary subject work link</b></li> <li>• <b>Exact phrase</b> – quotation marks</li> </ul>
* <b>Humanities International Complete</b>	<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes <i>full text</i> of 770+ journals; indexes 2000+ journals, some back to 1960s</li> <li>• Includes abstracts (better keyword searching)</li> <li>• Helpful subject headings/links</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit to <b>English language</b> (bottom of screen)</li> <li>• Under “Refine Search” limit to: Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals</li> </ul>
<b>Humanities &amp; Social Sciences Retrospective, 1907-1984</b>	<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indexing goes back to 1907</li> <li>• Scope is beyond literature, allowing for serendipitous discoveries</li> <li>• Includes subject headings</li> </ul> <p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No abstracts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recommended:</b> In keyword menu choice, <i>limit to specific word form</i> by using quotation marks. E.g., <i>creative</i> retrieves: creative, creativity, etc. "Creative" retrieves only the word <i>creative</i>.</li> <li>• <b>Exact phrase:</b> Use quotation marks.</li> </ul>
<b>JSTOR</b> Full-text backfiles from selected Humanities & other journals. Includes v.1 of all journals to approx. 3-5 years before current year	<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All full text; all scholarly journals</li> </ul> <p><u>Difference:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively small number of literature journals (about 60) BUT searches full text, retrieving more articles than MLA, Humanities...</li> <li>• No subject headings or abstracts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exact phrase:</b> Use quotation marks</li> </ul>
<b>Literature Resource Center</b>	<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All full-text, including 280 journals.</li> <li>• Includes basic biographical info. for authors and literary criticism in reference books &amp; journal articles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To search by periodical title:</b> Pull down one of the menus; change to <b>publication title</b>; key in journal title.</li> <li>• <b>Results screen</b> – note tabs &amp; peer-reviewed check box</li> <li>• <b>Exact phrase:</b> Use quotation marks.</li> </ul>

\*MLA & Humanities International Complete (and any other combination of Ebscohost databases) can be searched together. Click on blue “Choose Databases” link, select databases to search and click on “OK” button at bottom of screen.