

MLA Bibliography

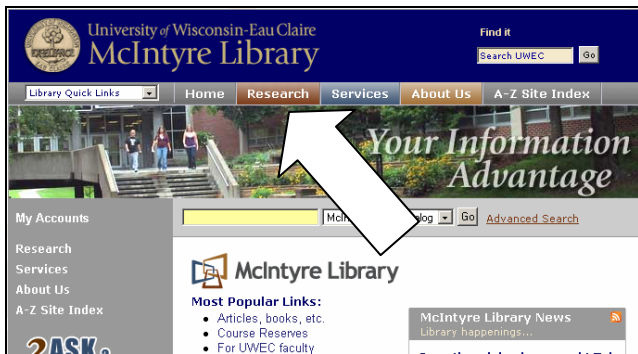


Introduction

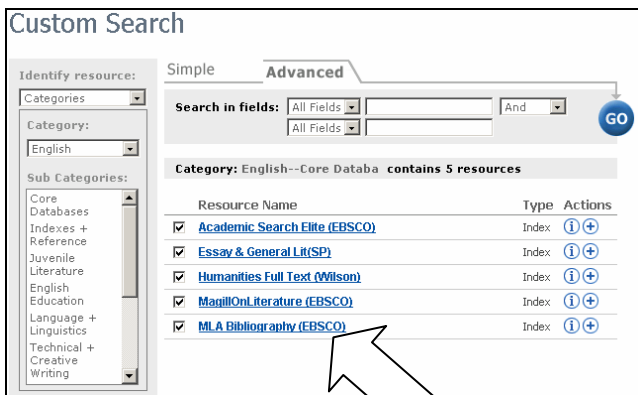
MLA International Bibliography, produced by the Modern Language Association, indexes scholarly research in nearly 4,000 journals, books, series, working papers, proceedings, bibliographies, and dissertations. Topics covered: world literature, linguistics, modern languages, and folklore. The online version covers documents produced since 1963.

Accessing MLA

From the library homepage, click the “Research” button.



Then select “Resources by Subject” and “English” from the following pages. This will take you to the Search Spot Custom search screen for English, which shows all the main music databases along with several useful multipurpose databases.



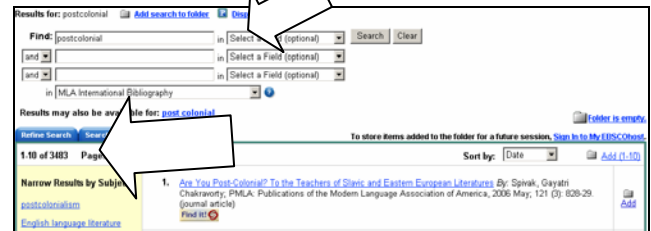
Enter a term in the input boxes and Search Spot will run your search term in all the databases selected and return the number of article containing the search term(s) found. While this is a quick way to survey the available databases for quantity of material available in each, it could also be misleading when the less general databases use controlled vocabulary for their subject headings.

So, though you could use the SearchSpot search engine to search them all simultaneously, this guide will take you through MLA-specific features. At the bottom of the list, click on [MLA Bibliography \(EBSCO\)](#).

Search Techniques

Simple Searching

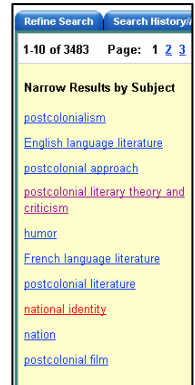
Enter the most specific search term(s) in the input box and click Search. You will see a list of records containing those terms. In this example, the search for “postcolonial” yielded 3,483 records. If you have more than 20 or less than 2 records, consider revising your search.



You can begin to revise a search in a variety of ways: narrowing results by subject, setting time period, search field, or other limits; launching a lateral search; launching either an index or a thesaurus search. Once you have run a few searches, you can use the search history to combine terms for a more precise search.

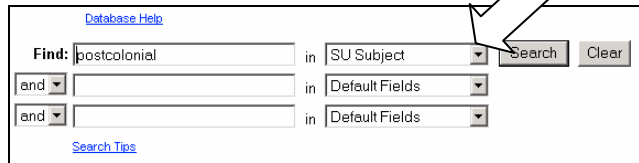
Narrowing

EBSCO creates a list of subject headings common to several articles in the results. Click a heading to search within the results.

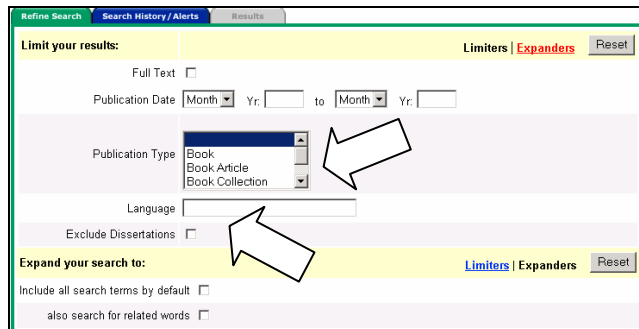


Limiting

You can re-run the search “postcolonial” and select the field you want to search from the drop down menu to the left of the input box.



You can also apply quick limits by entering language or date limits, selecting publication types, or excluding dissertations using the entry and check boxes below the search entry area.



Note: Do not click the full text box, since it will exclude articles that may be available in full text elsewhere in the library or in other databases.

Lateral Searching

Look at the most promising record you found in the first search.



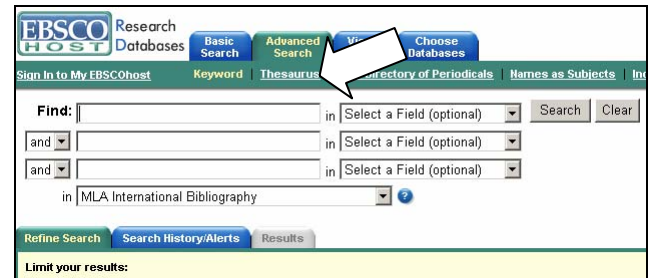
Each entry in the Subject areas is a clickable link that will lead you to other articles on that topic. For example, in the illustrated record Romanticism is a hot link and clicking on it will produce a list of all records in the database using Romanticism as a subject heading. However, there may be many articles on Romanticism that have nothing to do with postcolonial literature.

The general subject heading “postcolonial literary theory and criticism” looks more promising. There


is a way to see which would be the best subject headings: the thesaurus search.

Thesaurus Searching

MLA Bibliography uses a controlled set of terms for its subject headings. You can browse that list, the thesaurus, and select interesting headings.



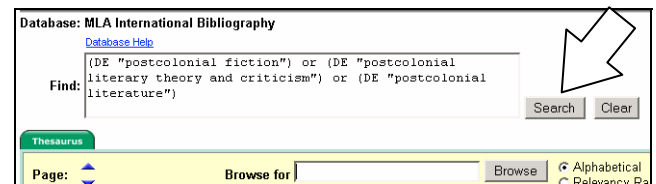
Click the Thesaurus tab to begin. For this example, having noticed the heading “postcolonial literary theory and criticism” in the previous article, enter “postcolonial” in the “Browse an Index” box and click the Browse button.



Since there are several heading that seem related, click the boxes beside each of the appropriate headings and click the “Add” button.

This will put those headings together in the search box, along with codes

to limit them to the subject field, and “OR” to include all articles with any of these terms in the results. Now click the Search button.



In the results list, click the *FindIt!* button to locate the article. You may find the fulltext online, in the library, or be referred to the ILLiad login screen.

Consult *Find Virtually Any Article*, found online at <http://www.uwec.edu/Library/research/guides/findArticles.pdf>

For assistance, contact a librarian at the reference desk, 836-3858 or library.reference@uwec.edu.