

Library Research Workshop

Amy Fader

<https://calendar.lib.unc.edu/appointments/amyfader>

Today You Will Work as a Group to

- Compare the features and search results of various library databases
- Practice citation chasing for your secondary sources
- Consider what makes a resource scholarly
- Organize your thoughts and prepare some key points
- Share that information with the class

Comparing Subject-Specific Databases

The library's [E-Research by Discipline](#) includes all our subject specific databases. This page lists resources useful for studies in [Film Studies](#).

Consider different types of databases. How do you imagine the databases listed below differ based on these descriptions? Using keywords relevant to this class (consider what we've already searched today or a topic you are interested in), perform a quick search in at least 2 of the databases listed below. How do the results compare?

- [FIAP International Index to Film Periodicals Plus](#)
Created by the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAP), the database indexes more than 500,000 articles from 340 of the world's foremost academic and popular film journals, dating from 1972 onward. The database also incorporates the International Index to TV Periodicals; Treasures from the Film Archives, which identifies silent film holdings in archives around the world, and the International Directory of Film/TV Documentation Collections.
 - Describe your search results. How extensive are they? Are they scholarly? How relevant are they? How do they compare to the other databases?
- [Film & Television Literature Index with Full Text](#)

Covers over 300 journal and magazine titles for film and tv reviews, scholarly and critical analysis of cinema and television, as well as pop culture related to film and tv. About half the journals and magazines are film periodicals and the other half cover film and television with some regularity. Film and Television Literature Index is the new and expanded online version of the print title, Film Literature Index. Those volumes are on Row 17, Davis Reference Department, and cover 1973 to 2004.

- Describe your search results. How extensive are they? Are they scholarly? How relevant are they? How do they compare to the other databases?

- [MLA International Bibliography](#)

A major index for literary criticism, linguistics, folklore & cultural studies. They curate a list of journals that are peer reviewed and relevant to the humanities and they provide metadata for all those articles. While these databases are focused on indexing relevant material (using keywords and subject headings), accessing these databases through the library's website will provide links to full text when available through UNC Libraries subscriptions (sometimes available through JSTOR, for example). For items where full text is not available online, ILL can provide a scan of our print copy or obtain a scan from another library.

- Describe your search results. How extensive are they? Are they scholarly? How relevant are they? How do they compare to the other databases?

- [JSTOR](#)

JSTOR is a repository that includes full-text articles covering humanities, arts, sciences, and business. It archives articles from the first volume of a journal up to the past three to five years. While we may have access to more recent articles through another database, it's important to be aware of this limitation in JSTOR. Additionally, while you can search across disciplines, the selection of journals is limited, so it's recommended to use subject-specific databases for better coverage and indexing. Searching in JSTOR is done through keyword search only (there are not subject headings or controlled vocabulary to use for your search). This may result in irrelevant hits (the term you search may appear in an article even if it's not the main topic of discussion), so precision searching and using advanced search tools will yield better results.

- Describe your search results. How extensive are they? Are they scholarly? How relevant are they? How do they compare to the other databases?

Following the Scholarly Conversation

Once you find a relevant secondary source, you can explore its “network.” Use the following article (or one you have previously chosen in your research for this class) to complete the exercise below: Staat, Wim. ["Todd Haynes' Melodramas of the Unknown Woman: Far from Heaven, Mildred Pierce, and Carol, and Stanley Cavell's Film Ethics."](#) *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*, vol. 36, no. 6, 2019, pp. 520-538.

- Look at the bibliography and footnotes. Where did the author draw their evidence?
 - The author drew most of their evidence from film books and articles by Cavell, Goldberg, and more.
- Search the author's name in [Articles+](#). Have they published more on this subject?
 - At least 2 other melodrama related publications.
- Search for the article by title in [Google Scholar](#). Click *Cited By* to see who has used this work since it was published.
 - Theresa L. Geller “Feminism’s Indelible Mark”
 - Paul Deb “‘I Saw a Different Life. I Can't Stop Seeing It’: Perfectionist Visions in Revolutionary Road”
 - Martin Nunez “Nuevos retos de la imagen : cuerpos, escrituras, voces”
 - Christina Wilkins “The Work of Adaptation”
- Scan the citing works. Are they building on it, challenging it, or taking it in a new direction?
 - They are building on Staat's work. The other authors are taking the ideas he used to support a more narrow/specific focus on a sub-area of film studies, such as feminism, perfectionism, etc. They do not focus on the specific melodramas Staat focused on, but the ideas and analyses.
- How does looking forward (Cited By) feel different from looking backward (bibliographies)?
 - It gives us options for more work around the same subject, work built off of the cited article, rather than looking back at what the author used to write it. It feels kind of backwards, but seems like it could give helpful sources/articles.
- Choose a book from the sources found in Google Scholar. Search for the title in the library catalog <https://library.unc.edu/> . What subject headings are assigned? Do they give you new search terms?

- The subject headings are “PERFORMING ARTS / Film & Video / History & Criticism, SOCIAL SCIENCE / Gender Studies.” They do not give any new search terms.
- Select one of the scholarly articles you’ve encountered in this exercise. Search for the journal title in the library catalog. If it is digital, can you search within the journal for other key terms?
 - Yes I can, the journal “Film-philosophy” is open access through UNC and allows me to search directly within the journal for anything I like.

Evaluating Resources

A **Film Review** is generally an article that is published in an online or print newspaper, magazine, or scholarly work that describes and evaluates a film. A review often offers an opinion or focuses on making a recommendation.

Film Criticism is generally written by an expert in film studies or film scholar. The criticism often presents the film within a specific context (theoretical, social, political or historical) while drawing on a larger dialog and positioning their argument within the field.

- Try to perform a search in [Articles+](#) for the film you are researching or keywords related to the topic you are considering for research in this class.
 - We got unexpected results — the first result is about “The Forrest Gump approach to preventing severe Covid-19.”
- How many search results did you find?
 - There are 145,102 results without any filters. If I filter it to only include Journal Articles in the film genre, there are only 557 results.
- What are some examples of keywords you might use to narrow down or expand your search?
 - “Historical context,” “film,” “review,” “film studies,” “analysis,” “reaction,” “scholarly,” etc.
- Can you distinguish between an example of a film review and an example of film criticism?
 - A film review is a more general, popular way to spread opinions about a film. They generally focus on plot, how enjoyable it was, etc. Film criticism, on the other hand, tends to be more scholarly and research-based — an author will use sources to point to things a film did well or poorly within the context of film studies, etc.

- How might both types of material be important to your research?
 - They can both be important to research because it shows multiple sides and views on a topic, allowing you to make the most informed decision with all the information available, from any point of view or opinion.