

# 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?
  - For this database, my results weren't as extensive as other databases. I only got 4,541 results. Out of these results, there are a lot of academic journal articles and many of them are peer reviewed. However, there's a handful of other types of results like periodicals and reviews. Upon first glance, the titles all seem very relevant to the subject.
- [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?
- We had 32,145 results. Without any filters, we had a broad range of results that are not necessarily narrow to a specific research topic. The results mainly had journal articles, some book chapters, and a few research reports. The dates have a large range (late 1900s to current material). Quite a few of the results are also peer-reviewed. The titles mainly seem relevant to the subject, but others seem like they might not be very useful.

## 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 evidence from many places, using 21 sources in total. Seven of his articles are by the same author, and all of the authors seem to be credible, given that many of the articles are from university presses.
- Search the author's name in [Articles+](#). Have they published more on this subject?
  - Yes. The author has published a handful of other pieces about film and specifically about melodramas.
- Search for the article by title in [Google Scholar](#). Click *Cited By* to see who has used this work since it was published.
  - Some of his papers are used more than others. This specific article has been cited by four people.
- Scan the citing works. Are they building on it, challenging it, or taking it in a new direction?
  - Out of the citing works, one wrote a book and used the source, one wrote an article in Spanish and seemed to build on the article, making it more accessible. Overall, the articles seem to be building on the ideas presented in the paper.

- How does looking forward (Cited By) feel different from looking backward (bibliographies)?
  - Looking forward rather than looking at bibliographies feels different because it shows where the research is going and what's being discovered based on the work of the initial author. Additionally, looking forward (cited by) will always present more modern sources to look at.
- 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 for *Reframing Todd Haynes: feminism's indelible mark* are: Todd Haynes, Criticism and interpretation, Feminism and motion pictures, United States Motion picture producers and directors, United States Queer theory, Queer theory In motion pictures. This article presents new search terms as it builds off the subject headings in the initial article. In this book, new ideas and terms such as 'Queer Theory' and 'Feminism' provide a more specific subject matter.
- 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?
  -

## 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.
  -
- How many search results did you find?
  -

- What are some examples of keywords you might use to narrow down or expand your search?
  -
- Can you distinguish between an example of a film review and an example of film criticism?
  -
- How might both types of material be important to your research?
  -