

Library Research Workshop

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

Today You Will

- Work as a group to learn about library databases and resources by
 - examining features of a library database
 - examining a resource found within this database
- Discuss the database and the resource as a group
- Organize your thoughts and prepare some key points
- Share that information with the class

Explore an E-Resource: JSTOR vs. MLA International Bibliography

Work as a group to learn about your e-resources. Examine the features of these databases by visiting the links below. As you explore, consider these questions:

- What general information did you learn about the collections?
 - JSTOR- tried and true, you know her, you love her- not quite exhaustive, but easy to search by discipline
 - MLA Int. Bib.- similar to Library Plus, but will show you sources available through the interlibrary loan. With a free account can save multiple projects + sources. Specific magazine archives (eg- The Atlantic Archive)
- What kinds of materials do they contain? (Are these mostly primary sources or secondary sources?)
 - JSTOR- mostly scholarly sources from journal publications
 - MLA- slightly more exhaustive
- Do you have a sense of what time period or location these materials cover? (“No” or “Sort of” is an okay answer here, sometimes it is hard to nail down.)
 - MLA - all kinds, but definitely a lot of sources from the past 100 years in the West specifically

Links to *JSTOR* and *MLA International Bibliography* from UNC Libraries’ website:

- [JSTOR. - UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries Catalog](#)
- [MLA international bibliography. - UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries Catalog](#)

Learn more about how they compare and contrast in the LibGuide for this class:

- [Books and Articles - ENGL 425 : Literature, Archives, and Original Research - LibGuides at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill \(unc.edu\)](#)

Exploring a Resource from JSTOR vs. MLA International Bibliography

Perform a search in both databases for : Edith Maude Eaton.

- How do the results compare? Does one seem to provide more robust search results than the other? Does one seem to provide more relevant search results than the other?
 - JSTOR has a ton of scholarly articles accessible to UNC about Edith Maude Eaton's writing
 - MLA International Bibliography has plenty of sources, but almost all of them are links back to "UNC holdings," which seems a little redundant
- Are there other keywords you might add to get more relevant results?
 - We were thinking "child," "childhood," "girl," or "youth," but using some of those terms after the initial search of her name didn't yield information that was very relevant.
- Choose one article from either database that stands out as being particularly relevant to this class. Is the article available online? If not, how might you get it?
 - <https://www.proquest.com/docview/3090687418/fulltextPDF/C5588892E2C5404DPQ/1?accountid=14244&sourcetype=Scholarly%20Journals>
 - This has to do with the construction of girlhood in one of her stories, but the story itself was not written when she was a child
 - Román, Valentina M. "Crafting Chinese American Modern Girlhood: Edith Maude Eaton in The Modern Priscilla." *Legacy*, vol. 41, no. 1, 2024, pp. 47-74. *ProQuest*, <http://libproxy.lib.unc.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/schola>

rly-journals/crafting-chinese-american-modern-girlhood-edith/docvie
w/3090687418/se-2.

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of limiting your search to full text online?
 - Some older materials are harder to find online
- What is your initial response to this item? (Does it seem easy or hard to understand? What kinds of thoughts and feelings does it conjure up?)
 - Honestly, we don't have strong feelings about this article. It seems okay, but the abstract was... strange and offputting and not really descriptive of the article itself.
- Can you provide some context for the item? (Can you tell who the author is? Where was this published or found? Whose story is being told and in what way? What voices are present or absent in this material?)
 - Chinese American Girlhood is focused on in this article, although it seems to be written by a Latina scholar out of the University of California, Irvine. It is pretty recently written, published in 2024 in the journal Legacies, which is a journal focusing on American Women Writers
- How might this item or other material from this database/resource be incorporated into a project for this course?
 - These resources work best for scholarly information about the author generally. Though the focus of juvenilia complicates this, as it can be hard to pinpoint specific information and scholarly work if juvenilia is not the main work of the author.
- What other types of research material (outside of this database/resource) might you search for to complement this item?
 - You will need to search Edith Maude Eaton to get her age and information of what the time period of her youth was. There is little information on Eaton's youth, and many of the scholarly articles are in retrospect and therefore many article authors write about her adult life, not youth. You will have to use many different sources to paint the full picture of Eaton and her work.