

# Finding Articles about Language & Literature

## Searching in the MLA INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

When you need articles, books, and book chapters for research on language, literature, linguistics, or folklore, the **Modern Language Association International Bibliography** database is the most comprehensive database, and will help you find publications from 1963 to the present. Each record links to SFX, which searches other databases for the full electronic article.

### How to Use the MLA International Bibliography

First, open it from the Alphabetical List of ALADIN's "Articles & Other Databases."








**Subject Search.** To search for materials about a particular author, work, or subject:

- Click on "Map Term to Subject Heading."
- Type in the **subject, work, or author** (last name first). The subject may be a genre of literature (gothic fiction), a time period (renaissance), the title of a work (barn burning), the author of a work (faulkner william), or a critical perspective (feminist).
- Select "English Language" and limit "Publication Year."

Enter **Keyword** or phrase:   Map Term to Subject Heading

**Limit to:**  
 English Language  Journal Articles  Latest Update  
Publication Year  -

- Click on "Perform Search" for related subject headings and synonyms the database uses.

Select	Subject Heading	Scope
<input type="checkbox"/>	Faulkner, William	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">American Literature</a>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">1900-1999</a>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Novel</a>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Light in August	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Absalom, Absalom!	
<input type="checkbox"/>	"The Sound and the Fury"	

- Select the subject heading you prefer to search and click "Continue" at the top of the page. You may also click on a blue Subject Heading for related, broader, and narrower search terms.

**Too many results? Not enough? See reverse for help.**

## Too many results? Not enough?

The results box below shows that the MLA database has found **4,950 publications** about William Faulkner (Row 1). Row 2 shows that the database has found **323 publications** in English about William Faulkner between 1999 and 2002.

#	Search History	Results	Display
1	Faulkner, William sh.	4950	<a href="#">Display</a>
2	limit 1 to (english language and yr=1999-2002)	323	<a href="#">Display</a>

[Saved Searches](#)   [Save Search History](#)   [Delete Searches](#)

Enter **Keyword** or phrase:  Map Term to Subject Heading

[Perform Search](#)

### Too many results? Try:

- **Adding keywords** to your subject search. For example, enter <2 and “barn burning”> and deselect “Map Term to Subject Heading,” which searches for the keywords “barn burning” (a short story title) in the 323 results.
- **Limiting “Publication Years”** to a shorter time period.
- Searching for **journal articles only**.
- **Combining searches**. Do a subject search on Faulkner as above, then do a subject search on “women.” Click on “Combine Search” at the top of the main search page to find articles about “women” and “Faulkner,” which may include women characters, etc.

### Not enough results? Try:

- Using **alternative search terms**. Think of synonyms for your subject and try those.
- Increasing the range of “**Publication Years**.”

**Keyword Search.** To search for materials that include your search terms in the record, which lists title, author, subject headings, publisher, etc.:

- **Deselect** “Map Term to Subject Heading.”
- **Enter keywords using AND** to combine ideas. For example, < faulkner AND women > will find records that include the word “faulkner” and the word “women.”
- **Enter keywords using OR** to search for two or more ideas simultaneously. For example, < faulkner OR women > will find records that include only the word “faulkner,” only the word “women,” and both the words “faulkner” and “women.”
- **Use parentheses** to combine an AND and OR search. For example, < faulkner AND (women or female) > will find records that include the words “faulkner” and “women” together, and records that include the words “faulkner” and “female” together.

For more help, contact the Mullen Library Reference (x5070) or try **Ask a Librarian**, the WRLC’s virtual reference service at <http://www.aladin.wrlc.org/>

