

MLA International Bibliography Tip Sheet

DESCRIPTION

Produced by the Modern Language Association of America, the online *MLA International Bibliography* consists of bibliographic records pertaining to literature, language, linguistics, and folklore, and includes coverage from 1963 to the present. The *MLA International Bibliography* provides access to scholarly research in over 4,400 journals and series. It also covers relevant monographs, working papers, proceedings, bibliographies, and other formats.

*** Note that the MLA covers mostly **English** language material. For **foreign language** material, use the *Guides to Research by Subject* on the Libraries Web site.

<http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/subjectguides.html>

The *MLA International Bibliography* has three files:

- 1) records from 1921-1990; 2) records from 1990-present; 3) MLA Directory of Periodicals.
- The default searches all three files.

BASIC SEARCHING

Use **Boolean Operators** to narrow, broaden, or focus your search. Click on the AND, OR, and NOT option from the Drop-down box on the Search Screen.

Operator	Search	Number of Results
NONE (words anywhere; broadest search)	surrealism	1806
AND (combines terms; narrows)	surrealism and spain	20
OR (searches for either term; broadens)	surrealism or dada	2197
NOT (one term but not the other)	surrealism not dada	1625

Use **field searching** to perform the most efficient searches. Click on the appropriate field from the Drop-down Box.

Field	Search	Number of Results
AU Author(s)	sieber, harry	53
SU Subjects- All	italy and poetry Spanish literature and gender	278 224
LA Language	french	165,247
SO Journal Name (<i>use index</i>)	"yale french studies"	1408
TI Title	schiller and goethe	134

SUBJECTS: CONTROLLED VOCABULARY

The database field "**General Subject Areas**" and "**Subject Terms**" are your most powerful search tools. Choose **Subjects-All** from the drop-down box. There are several tricks to using this field:

To find articles on a particular century, use the actual dates in the search.

1800-1899 for the 19th century

1600-1699 for the 17th century

this works for all centuries back to 100-199

There are also periods of time:

400-1499 for the Middle Ages

1100-1699 for the Middle Ages/Renaissance

1500-1699 for Early modern

To limit to a national literature, use:

italian literature

german literature

You can define the relationship between two descriptors by using *Role indicators*.

influence on surrealism

role of humor

theories of bourdieu

treatment of marriage

relationship to gender

compared to goethe

Use the Subject Terms in your first set of search results to refine further searches. **Use the language of the database itself, to get the most accurate results.**

Once you've done a search, options appear on the left side of your search results screen. You can **narrow the results** of your search by **Subject**, by **Journal**, or by Author. **Subjects** are the most useful.

USING TRUNCATION AND WILDCARD SYMBOLS : to allow for varying forms of a word.

Symbols	Search	Results
Truncation symbol (*)	surreal*	surreal, surrealist, surrealism, surrealisme...
Wildcard symbol (?)	Wom?n	Women or woman

FINDING THE ARTICLES

By using this link in each record



you can link directly to the full-text of the article (if available), or to the Libraries Catalog to find the call number.