

MLA on FirstSearch

The MLA International Bibliography, produced by the Modern Language Association of America, consists of bibliographic records pertaining to literature, language, linguistics and folklore. It provides access to scholarly research in over 6,000 journals and serial works.

In addition to journal articles, MLA provides information on books, essay collections, working papers, proceedings, dissertations, and bibliographies. The online version available on FirstSearch covers material published from 1963 to the present, consisting of over 1,300,000 bibliographic records.

How to Access:

1. Point your Web browser to the McFarlin Library website: <http://www.lib.utulsa.edu/>
2. On the main library page choose "Indexes and Other Databases"
3. From the list of databases choose "MLA".

Basic Search

The first screen you see will permit you to perform a "Basic Search" in MLA. The screen looks something like this:

Basic Search

Type search terms and choose limits. Click on **Search**.

i **≡** **📰** **?**
Info Index News Help Current database: MLA

Search for:

Keyword Author Title

Limit to: Full text

Rank by:

Click in the text-entry box next to the words Search for: and type in the words you wish to search for. Click in the appropriate radio button to choose the type of search you want to do: any keyword, only author's names, or only words in the title. You may also choose to Rank by relevance or date of publication. Ignore the Limit to option. There are no full text items in MLA. Click on the **Search** button and MLA will retrieve every record in its database that matches your search.

Advanced Search

You may wish to perform a more sophisticated search, incorporating Boolean operators, document types, searching across multiple fields, and so forth. Click on **Advanced** search on the blue Navigation menu on the left side of the screen.

The Advanced Search screen has a "fill-in-the-blanks" form that looks like this:

Advanced Search

Type search terms and choose limits. Click on **Search**.

Info News Help
Current database: MLA

Search for: Keyword

and Keyword

and Keyword

Limit to:

 Year

 Document Type All

 Language All

 Full text

Rank by: No ranking

Note in the illustration above the three **Search for:** boxes. Enter your keywords or phrases in these boxes. (If you're looking for an exact phrase, enclose it in quotation marks.) The drop-down menu to the right of each **Search for:** box lists the searchable indexes (or fields) for the database you're searching. These would be such things as an author or conference name, a subject heading or descriptor, standard number, title, etc. You may choose a different index for each search term, if you wish. This means you could, for example, look for one word among the names of authors and another word among the subject headings. This is called cross-field searching.

The small drop-down menus to the left of the second and third **Search for:** boxes contain the Boolean operators that you may use with your search terms. The three operators to choose from are **and**, **or** & **not**. Use these operators to tell MLA how to combine your terms when performing the search.

Once you have filled in the screen, click on the **Search** button and MLA will retrieve every record in its database that matches your search.

Remember:

- ✓ There are no full text items in MLA. The most information you will find on any article is a citation or a citation and abstract. So ignore any options that allow you to limit to full text items.
- ✓ McFarlin Library does not subscribe to all the journals indexed by MLA. Remember to check INNOPAC to see if the library has the journals (or books) that you find when searching MLA on the Web.
- ✓ Always click on Exit when finished to end your session. This logs you out of MLA, making it possible for someone else to log in.
- ✓ The librarians are always willing to assist you in any way possible. If you have any questions or problems in searching, please go to the Reference Level Information Desk or call 631-2880. You may also contact us by e-mail at ref@utulsa.edu.