

Finding Critical Works on Children's Literature

Selected Resources for ENGL 385

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- Basic tips:
- 1) In your initial search, try using the titles of the works you'll be writing about. Either do separate searches or search the titles together; if you do the latter, put OR between the titles (ex. *coraline or mary poppins or little red riding hood*), as it is **highly unlikely** you'll find one article that discusses all the works you're using
 - 2) Also include in your search the term(s) that best describe(s) your topic; be aware of the need to allow for related terms and other word endings for those terms (ex. for *mother*, a related term would be *parent*; other word endings would include *mothers, motherhood, mothering, parents, parenthood, parenting*). Use an * to search for the other word endings (*mother* or parent**)
 - 3) If you don't find an article on the works you're writing about (which happens frequently), try searches on the author; books/articles that talk about other works by the author might be relevant to your topic
 - 4) If you don't find an article on other works by your author, search for criticism on your particular topic as it's treated in children's literature (*magic and children's literature, magic and literature and for children*)

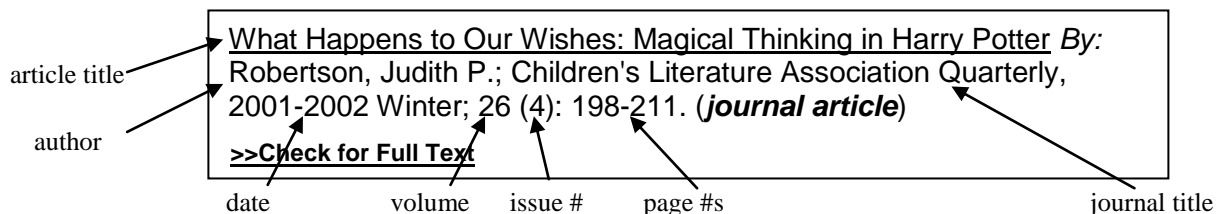
Articles

To get to databases that will help you locate articles:

- ◆ Go to the Libraries homepage (www.lib.clemson.edu)
- ◆ Click on [Find Articles](#)
- ◆ Under **Subject List**, click on [Literature](#)

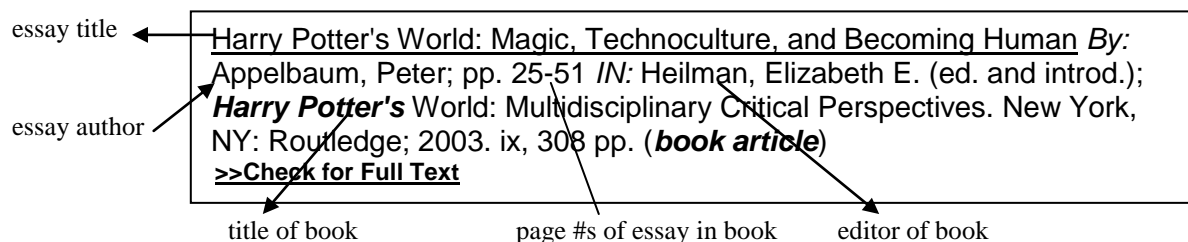
1. *MLA International Bibliography* (1926-present)

Sample record for a **journal article**:



- ◆ Note the journal title, date, volume, issue, and page #s for the article
- ◆ Click on the **Check for full text** link to see if the Libraries subscribe to the journal

Sample record for an **essay in a book**



- ◆ Click on the **Check for full text** link
- ◆ If the book doesn't come up, do a search on the **title of the book** in the [Library catalog](#)

2. Other databases to try : [Literature Online](#), [JSTOR](#), [Project Muse](#), [Literature Resource Center](#), [Academic Search Premier](#), [Expanded Academic](#), [ERIC](#)

Journals & Magazines

If you come across a reference to a journal not listed below, do a *title* search on the *title of the journal* in the [library catalog](#).

UNLESS indicated otherwise by the titles below,

- ◆ *Current issues* ("Latest Received") of journals (past several months, usually) are shelved by call number in the Periodicals area on Level 4
- ◆ *Older issues* of journals (past year and before, usually) are on floors 1, 2, 5, or 6 according to their call numbers (Ps on level 2, Zs on level 6)
- ◆ *E-journals* ("Online") : use the [Locate a journal link](#) on the Libraries' homepage

<i>Bookbird</i> (1998-current)	PN 1009 .A1 B6
<i>Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books</i> (1975 - current) ◆ Some issues available via E-journals	Z 1037 .A1 C4
<i>Children's Literature</i>	E-journal
<i>Children's Literature Association Quarterly</i>	E-journal
<i>Children's Literature in Education</i> (1975 - current)	E-journal (older issues : Z 1037 .A1 C5)
<i>Journal of Children's Literature</i> (2002, 2004 – current)	PN 1009 .A1 B85
<i>The Lion and the Unicorn</i>	E-journal
<i>The New Advocate</i> (1989 - 1992, March 2001 - 2003)	Z 1037 .A27; all issues on level 6
<i>Phaedrus</i> (1973 - 1988)	Z 1037 .A1 P5; all issues on level 6
<i>Sankofa</i> (2002 - current)	PL 8009.5 .S36
<i>Signal : Approaches to Children's Books</i> (2001 - 2003)	PN 1009 .A1 S39; all issues on level 2

Finding Books

Books about an author or about children's literature in general will often contain critical discussions that might be useful for your essays.

To find books *about* an author, select **Subject** from the [library catalog's](#) pull-down menu and type the author's name (last name, first name) in the adjacent box

To find books *about children's literature in general*, do **keyword** searches in the [library catalog](#) using some of the phrases/terms below (use the " " where indicated)

"children's stories"	"picture books for children"
"children's literature"	"illustrated books" children
"children's literature" criticism	"children's literature" illustration

To find books *written by* a particular author, select **Author** from the [library catalog's](#) pull-down menu and type the author's name (last name, first name) in the adjacent box

If you know the *title of a book* and want to see if we have it, select **Title** from the [library catalog's](#) pull-down menu and type the title in the adjacent box

Books	<i>Children's Literature Review</i>	Ref PN 1009 .A1 C5139
Containing	<i>Writers for Children</i>	Ref PN 1009 .A1 W73 1988
Criticism	<i>Masterplots II: Juvenile and Young Adults Fiction Series</i>	PN 1009 .A1 M25 (library use only)

Biographical Information

First, see if the libraries own any books about the author by doing a *subject search* in the [library catalog](#). In addition to the sources below, those under "Reference Books" (on p. 4) also have biographical information.

Something About the Author

Ref PN 451 S6

Authors of Books for Young People

Ref PN 497 .A97 1990

Behind the Covers : Interviews with Authors and Illustrators of Books for Children and Young Adults

Ref Z 1037 .A1 R65 1985 v. 1-2

The 100 Most Popular Children's Authors

Ref PS 490 .M39 1999

Children's Books and Their Creators

Ref PN 1009 .A1 C484 1995

Illustrators of Children's Books

Ref NC 965 .M59 (1744-1966)

Ref NC 965 .I44 (1967-1976)

Black Authors and Illustrators of Books for Children and Young Adults

Ref PN 1009 .A1 M67 2007

Twentieth Century Children's Writers

Ref PN 1009 .A1 T9 1995

Writers for Children

Ref PN 1009 .A1 W73 1988

Dictionary of Literary Biography

Ref PN 451 .D52

(look in the cumulative index in the last volume)

[Biography Resource Center](#)

(database; access from alphabetical list on

Find Articles page)

Reference Books	<i>The Oxford Companion to Children's Literature</i>	Ref PN 1008.5 .C37 1984
	<i>International Companion Encyclopedia of Children's Literature</i> [2 nd ed.]	Ref PN 1008.5 .I57 2004 v. 1-2
	<i>Cambridge Guide to Children's Books in English</i>	Ref PR 990 .C36 2001
	<i>Dictionary of American Children's Fiction</i>	
	Ref PS 374 .C454 H45 1985 (1859-1959)	Ref PS 374 .C454 H45 (1985-89)
	Ref PS 374 .C454 H452 (1960-1984)	Ref PS 490 .H45 1996 (1990-94)
	<i>Dictionary of British Children's Fiction</i>	Ref PR 830 .C513 H4 1989
	<i>Dictionary of Children's Fiction from Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, and Selected African Countries</i>	Ref PR 9084 .H45 1992

**Book
Review
Sources**

[Children's Literature Comprehensive Database](#)

- ◆ Type the name of the book in the search box
- ◆ Under **Word search qualifiers**, click by **exact phrase** and click on **Search**
- ◆ Entries with green dots have reviews

[Academic Search Premier](#)

- ◆ Type the title of the work in the search box
- ◆ In the Limit your results section, go to **Document Type** & select **Book review**

[Lexis Nexis](#)

- ◆ Click on **News** tab; in **Select Sources**, select **Book...reviews** from the pull-down menu

<i>Children's Literature Review</i> (1976 - present)	Ref PN 1009 .A1 C5139
<i>Children's Book Review Index</i> (1975 - present)	Ref Z 1037 .A1 C475
<i>Horn Book Index</i> (1924 - 1989)	Ref Z 1037 .A1 A15 Suppl

Website

Children's Literature Web Guide
<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/index.html>