

MLA International Bibliography

The **Modern Language Abstract International Bibliography** is a database offering citation details and full text access to more than 4,400 journals and 1,000 book publishers.

Subject coverage: literature, languages, linguistics, folklore, literary theory and criticism, drama, historical aspects of printing & publishing and more.

Dates of coverage: 1963 – present

What is the difference between the electronic journal A-Z listing and electronic databases?

The electronic journal listing is simply a list of journals which are available to us online. Use it if you know which journal you want to look at; for example your tutor has recommended 'Journal of Modern Literature' in your reading list, then you should go directly to the A-Z listing and search for it.

A database is a collection of journals, and you use them to search for articles; for example if you are doing an assignment on 'comparative literary theories' then you would use a database to find journal articles related to that topic.

To access MLA when on-campus

- Go to www.ucpmarjon.ac.uk/facilities/library
- Click on **Electronic Resources** and then **Database listing**.
- Click on **MLA International Bibliography**.
- If you are working on-campus, you will be logged in automatically.

To access MLA when off-campus

- Go to www.ucpmarjon.ac.uk/facilities/library
- Click on **Electronic Resources** and then **Database listing**.
- When you click on the link to MLA International Bibliography, you will see a screen that asks you to select your region or group.
- From the drop-down box, select 'UK Higher Education'.
- A list of institutions will appear (this can sometimes take a while to load) – scroll down and click on 'University College Plymouth St Mark & St John'.
- A box requesting a username & password will appear – here you need to enter your Marjon student number or staff login and your Marjon password, as if you were logging in to check your emails.
- You will then be logged in and ready to search the database.

Problems with logging in

- You will not be able to log in if your Marjon password has expired.
- Your password needs resetting every 120 days as a security measure, so remember to do this otherwise you will not be able to log in.
- If your password has expired, or you have forgotten it, go to www.marjon.ac.uk/email and see the 'password reset' section.
- If you have problems with resetting your password, please contact computingservices@marjon.ac.uk

Boolean searching

This is a type of searching used in online electronic resources, and uses the words AND, OR and NOT. It is a way of combining or excluding words. For example:

- Linguistics AND semantics = results which cover **both search terms**
- Fiction OR stories = results which cover **one search term or the other**
- Austen NOT criticism = results which cover **only the first search term**

Search tools

Using special symbols can expand the scope of your search:

- Use * to 'truncate' search terms. This expands a search term, eg. Cultu* will search culture, cultures, cultural and cultured.
- Use ? to find alternative spelling, eg. Sociali?ation will search both socialisation and socialization.

Choosing your search terms

You need to consider your search terms when you do a search. Think about:

- Technical terminology and colloquialisms
- Alternative terminology
- Alternative spellings such as American spelling

To perform a basic search – use this for a simple initial search

- Enter your search terms. Try using the Boolean search method and search tools as detailed overleaf.
- Remember that you may need to try different combinations of search terms to get results.
- Set any limits:
 - Linked full text – this means that any results you get will have a link which takes you directly into the article; you search the database, get the results, access the article and you're done!
 - Publication date – you can set a date range, eg. Only article published between 2001 and 2008
- Click on *search*, and your results will be displayed in a list.

To perform an advanced search – use this for a more detailed search

- Click on the '*Advanced search*' tab.
- Enter your search terms. You can enter up to 3 search terms, and specify in which part of the article you want to search, ie. Title, main text of the article etc.
- Set any limits as before.
- Click on *search*, and your results will be displayed in a list.

Viewing search results

- If you performed a full-text search there will be a link to the article in the results table. Click either on the link to the HTML full text or the .PDF full text.
- If you didn't perform a full-text search, you can view the citation record by clicking on the article title. From this, you will need to note down the **source** details and article title, and you can then look on the A-Z listing to see if we have online access to the journal.

Print, email or save your results

- In the detailed article record, click on the icons on the right hand side to print, save or email the record.

Problems?

If you have any problems with using MLA, please email libraryenquiries@marjon.ac.uk