# Global Literatures: Getting started in the Library

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Aims

This workbook follows on from the workbook “Getting started in the Library”. The first workbook introduced you to the Library catalogue, and to LION and the MLA Bibliography – databases where you can search for references to journal articles. This workbook introduces further resources which you can use to find secondary material such as journal articles, but concentrates in particular on resources which provide primary material to support your research into specific periods and genres of literature.

By the end of this workbook you will be able to:

- Think about the topic you have been given and how to search for information on it.
- Select and use some of the different types of Library resources available to find primary material.
- Explore the relevant database(s) for your subject area to find references on a particular topic.
- Perform searches of the database(s) using simple and advanced search techniques.

About this workbook

Each section of this workbook consists of explanatory notes and instructions. Some sections include tasks for you to complete. Keep the workbook for future reference and go over any sections you are unsure of in your own time.

- Things that you need to type are displayed in courier font.
- Instructions assume that you are using the Internet Explorer browser (the IT Services supported Web browser). However, you can use another Web browser.
Creating an effective search strategy

Creating an effective search strategy will help to ensure that you find the key material for your research. A strategy can be applied to any searchable information resource, and is particularly helpful when searching large bibliographic databases, or resources like the Web.

Exercise 1

What is the title of your essay?

What are the main keywords that you could use to sum this up?

What synonyms (alternative words) could you use instead of these keywords?

Using the techniques described in the presentation (AND, OR, brackets, * etc), try to pull your keywords together into a search statement
2 Accessing bibliographic databases for English: a reminder

Bibliographic databases index journal articles by author, title, subject etc. They can also be searched by keyword using the techniques described in the presentation. Some provide direct links to the full-text of the article, but for some you will have to see if the Library has the journal you need in stock by searching for the title of the JOURNAL (i.e. not the article title).

Exercise 2

- From the Library homepage [http://www.york.ac.uk/library/](http://www.york.ac.uk/library/), look at the Library Essentials section on the right and click on E-Resources Guide
- Once the E-Resources Guide window has opened, change the E-Resources by Subject box on the left to the subject of interest e.g. English & Related Literature
- This will bring up a list of databases relevant to English. If you click on the symbol, this gives a brief explanation of what each database covers. The symbol is a guide to the resource.

3 Using Reference sources for theoretical concepts

Reference sources are a good way to find an overview of any topic and are particularly useful in understanding theoretical concepts, which can then be applied to how those concepts are used in particular novels. Oxford Reference Online is a fully-indexed, cross-searchable database of over 100 dictionaries, companions, language reference, and subject reference works published by Oxford University Press

Exercise 3

- Click the Home tab. Within the E-Resources Guide, look at the E-Resources by Category section and choose Reference
- Select Oxford Reference Online: Premium Collection from the list
- In the quick search box, do a search for the concept you are interested in e.g. nationalism and postcolon*.
- Select Literature from the Subject Specializations.
- Then click on the search icon.
- Click on the link to post-colonial literature within The Concise Oxford Companion to English Literature
- This gives an overview of this concept. Click on any of the links within this article e.g. Chinua Achebe, to find out more about an author or concept.
- Another possible search might be hybrid* and postcolon*
4 Searching Literature Online: a reminder

This is a searchable, online library of over 300,000 works of English and American poetry, prose and drama.

Exercise 4

- Click on the Home tab. Change the E-Resources Guide by subject list of databases to English, and click on the link to LION - Literature Online (new version)
- Enter your IT Services login and password if required
- The next page will automatically link to LION
- On the next screen, click on Authors
- In the author name box, type in the name of the author you are interested in e.g. Kincaid, Jamaica and click on look up author name
- Put a tick in the Kincaid, Jamaica box and click on Add to Search
- Then on the main authors page click on search
- Click on the link to Kincaid, Jamaica
- Click on the Criticism link. Where there is a icon, this means that a full-text version of the journal article is available electronically from within the database.
- If there is no icon, click on Find it at York to give a direct link into the Library catalogue, which will tell you whether we have the journal you need or not via another provider.
- Now go back to the main search box and try a search for a theme that an author uses in their work e.g. Rushdie and memor*
- This should then find results related to your search. Again, click on either the icon or the Find it at York button to access the article
5 Searching Ebrary and Cambridge Companions Online

A fully searchable, full text collection of titles from the Cambridge Companions series. They are also good at looking for theoretical concepts.

Exercise 5

- Within the Yorsearch library catalogue (http://yorsearch.york.ac.uk), do a search for Sexual demon
- You may wish to limit the results by clicking on Electronic Resources
- From the list choose The sexual demon of colonial power [electronic resource] : Pan-African embodiment and erotic schemes of empire by Greg Thomas
- Click on Ebrary subscription titles
- Login with your IT Services login and password if required
- Read online or download
• To search Cambridge Companions Online, repeat Exercise 2

• From the list of English databases, click on the link to Cambridge Companions Online: Literature and Classics

• In the search box, enter the author or theme you are interested in e.g. Achebe. Another possible search might be hybrid* and postcolon* and click on Search

• Click on the link to the result that interests you. e.g. if you searched for Achebe, then the following result may be of interest: Postcolonial literature and the Western literary canon

• Click on the link to the pdf of the chapter that interests you
6 Searching ABELL

Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature contains over 880,000 records, covering monographs, periodical articles, critical editions of literary works, book reviews and collections of essays published anywhere in the world from 1920 onwards.

Exercise 6

- Repeat Exercise 2
- From the list of English databases, click on the link to ABELL
- If asked, enter your IT Services login and password
- Click on Search
- In the Title Keywords box, enter the title of the novel you are interested in e.g. Lucy
- In the Keywords box, enter the name of the author e.g. Kincaid to narrow the focus of your search and click on Search
- You can then click on the Find it @ York button to see if the library has what you are interested in.
- You can also search by subject – this searches the databases own internal thesaurus
- Go back to the main search page then click on Select from list by the Subject category
- Type Identity into the Subject box and then click Look for
- Select the subject category
- In the keywords box type in postcolon* and click on Search
- This will find results to do with postcolonialism and identity
7 Searching MLA Bibliography

This contains citations for journal articles, books, book chapters and theses in literature, language, linguistics and folklore. It is the major literature bibliography.

Exercise 7

- Go back to Exercise 2
- Click on the link to MLA Bibliography (EBSCO)
- In the search screen, try out your search strategy. An example is below:

![Search Screen]

Then click on Search
- Click on the Find it @ York button to see if the library has a copy of what you are interested in.
- Because MLA Bibliography covers results in both books and journals, there may not be a direct link to the article.
- Another possible way to search MLA Bibliography is also illustrated below:

![Search Screen]

This will search for authors or literature or writers of the African or Indian diaspora
- You could also try searching for some of the theoretical concepts discussed above. A good search might be to search on the Title for:
  
  Hybrid* and
  Postcolon* and
  writ* or litera* or author*
8 Searching Islamic Literature

It can be hard to find information specifically focused on the area of Islamic writers and literature. **Oxford Islamic Studies** is a collection of over 4,000 A-Z reference entries, chapters from scholarly and introductory works, Qur'anic materials, maps, images and primary sources. **Index Islamicus** covers publications in European languages on all aspects of Islam and the Muslim world.

- Go back to the E-Resources Guide (see Exercise 2).
- From the list of English databases, choose **Oxford Islamic Studies Online**
- In the search box, do a search for Camus
- Click on Humanity and Islam – this provides a useful insight into Iranian views on Albert Camus
- Go back to the E-Resources Guide and choose **Index Islamicus (Brill)** from the English listing
- Again, do a search in the search box for Camus
- Scroll down to the following result:

  **Altericide: Camus, encounters, reading**

  **Author:** Davis, C.  **Added Author:** Camus, A.  **Source:** Forum for Modern Language Studies, number 33 ii, pp.129-141  **Published:** 1997  **DOI:** 10.1093/fmls/33.2.129  **ISSN:** 00158518  **e-ISSN:** 14716860  **Classification:** Muslim world in Western literatures  **Subject Keywords:** European (& American) art & literature, Islam in Algeria France - Algeria

  - Click on the Title of the article
  - Then click on the Find it @ York button to see if we have the article.
9 Searching newspapers

Newspapers are a good primary source and help provide an objective but timely perspective on events of the day. Nexis UK covers newspapers from around the world and has a good coverage from 1985 onwards. Times Digital Archive and the Guardian might have a more British perspective, but both go back further in timespan and therefore may be useful for novels involving earlier periods than the 1980’s.

Exercise 9

- Click the Home tab.
- From the E-Resources by Category click Newspapers
- Click on the link to 17th & 18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers
- Try the following search:

```
Basic Search
Find: equiano and slav*  [Search]

Limit the results:
by publication date(s): [All] [Before] [On] [After] [Between]
   1745 [Month] [Day] and 1800 [Month] [Day]

by publication title:  [Browse Publication Title]
```
- Change the dates to those that are relevant
- Go back to the Newspapers listing in E-Resources Guide and click on the link to Nexis UK
- Try keyword searches for major themes in the novel you are interested in e.g. to find reports about changes to tradition and society in Nigeria (a major theme in Achebe’s Things Fall Apart), try the search below:
• Go back to the E-Resources Guide, and click on the link to **Times Digital Archive, 1785 - 1985**

• Try an **advanced search** based on major themes in the novel. The example below is based on Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children* and looks for the birth of India as a nation from 1945-55

• Go back to the E-Resources Guide and click on the link to **Guardian (1821-2003) and Observer (1791-2003) (ProQuest)**

• Do a search for major themes within the novel. The example below is based on Jamaica Kincaid’s novel *Lucy* and its portrayal of emigration to the States
Help

For further help in using the Library, please ask at the Help and Information desk. For specific information on English resources, email the liaison librarian at lib-english@york.ac.uk.