

Library Research Tips
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Tips for searching in [Worldcat](#) (for books) and databases such as the [MLA International Bibliography](#) (for articles)

- Start with a known book, book article, or journal article and use its bibliography to identify other sources that are relevant to your topic.
- Once you find a good call number for a print book, browse the stacks in McKeldin Library to find similar books.
- Use Google Scholar to locate a known book or article and use the “cited by” and “related articles” to identify additional resources. Example:

The screenshot shows the Google Scholar interface. The search bar contains the text "Virginia Woolf : interpreting the modernist text". Below the search bar, the word "Articles" is displayed. On the left side, there are filters for "Any time", "Since 2018", "Since 2017", "Since 2014", and "Custom range...". Below these filters, there are options to "Sort by relevance" and "Sort by date". The search results show a book titled "Virginia Woolf: Interpreting the Modernist Text" by J Haule, J Stape, published in 2016. The description of the book is visible. Below the book title, there are links for "Cited by 13" and "Related articles", both of which are circled in red.

- Type known titles of books and other resources into Worldcat to determine if they are available through the UMD Libraries. If not available, request the item on interlibrary loan using the **Request Item** in the Worldcat record.
- Brainstorm and make use of alternate key terms (**EX: rhetoric** – consider using the following terms in your searches: **rhetorical, discourse, persuasion etc.**)
- Use **Google Books** to preview books and to do keyword searching inside a book.
- Use tagged “official” **subject** terms to identify additional helpful terminology to use in searches.
Worldcat Example: When you find a book on your topic click on the title to get the **full record**, then click on the **View Description** to see additional metadata about the book (table of contents, subjects, etc.)

The screenshot shows a Worldcat record for the book "Double-consciousness and the rhetoric of Barack Obama : the price and promise of citizenship" by Robert Terrill. The record includes the book cover, the author's name, the publication year (2015), and the holding library (University of Maryland, College Park). Below the book cover, there are two buttons: "View eBook" and "View Description". A red arrow points to the "View Description" button. Below the buttons, there is a section for "Publication" information, which includes the publisher (Columbia, South Carolina : University of South Carolina Press, [2015]) and the number of pages (4 color images).

- Click on relevant **subjects** to locate additional books about your topic.

Double-consciousness and the rhetoric of Barack Obama : the price and promise of citizenship

Staff View: [MARC Record](#)

ISBN: 9781611175325 1611175321

OCLC Number: 914472607

Series: [Studies in rhetoric/communication](#)
[Studies in rhetoric/communication](#)

Contents: Inventional criticism -- Democratic double-consciousness -- A more perfect union -- The confines of race -- Beyond the veil -- Citizenship and duality, rhetoric and race -- Epilogue.

Subjects: [Obama, Barack Oratory.](#)
[Obama, Barack Language.](#)
[Obama, Barack Philosophy.](#)
[Obama, Barack.](#)
[Discourse analysis Political aspects United States.](#)
[Rhetoric Political aspects United States.](#)



TOO MANY RESULTS?

- Use Worldcat **Index Labels** for more precise search results.
 - **EXAMPLE:** for a list of books **about** Jane Austen (where she is your subject), **published by** Oxford University Press try the following search:
su:jane austen AND pb:oxford university
 - **EXAMPLE:** for a list of all books with ***Sense and Sensibility*** in the **title** and **authored by** ***Jane Austen*** try the following search:
au:jane austen AND ti: sense and sensibility
- Narrow your topic by using the **AND** operator to add another concept. **EX: barack obama AND rhetoric.** Add yet another concept to narrow even further **EX: barack obama AND rhetoric AND race.** Often the “AND” operator is implied. When in doubt add it to your search.
- In *Worldcat*, use the facets on the left hand side to limit your results by format (book, article, etc.) publication year (or range of years), language, etc.
- In *Worldcat*, after you run a search and have a list of titles, use the “Sorted by” option in the upper right hand corner to resort the list by best match or recency.

NOT ENOUGH RESULTS?

- Use quotes to search for exact phrases. **EX: “rhetorical criticism”** retrieves the exact phrase, whereas ***rhetorical criticism*** retrieves anything with both words in it, but not necessarily next to each other.
- Use the wildcard symbol (*) to retrieve plurals and alternate spelling **EX: rhetoric* will retrieve rhetoric, rhetorical, rhetorician, etc.**
- Make use of the **OR** operator to include synonyms, spelling variations, etc. in your search results. **EX: rhetoric* OR discourse* or presua* .** See search example below in the *MLA International Bibliography* database.

New Search Thesaurus MLA Directory of Periodicals Names as Subjects More ▾

EBSCOhost Searching: **MLA International Bibliography with Full Text** | [Choose Databases](#)

barack obama Select a Field (optional) Search

AND rhetoric* or discourse* or presua* Select a Field (optional) Clear ?

AND Select a Field (optional) + -

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

- Broaden your results by adding additional databases. Once you are logged into an EBSCO database, such as the *MLA International Bibliography*, you can select to search additional databases that are part of the EBSCO platform. Click on "Choose Databases."

New Search Thesaurus MLA Directory of Periodicals Names as Subjects More ▾

EBSCOhost Searching: **MLA International Bibliography with Full Text** **Choose Databases**

Select a Field (optional) ▾

AND ▾

Select a Field (optional) ▾

AND ▾

Select a Field (optional) ▾

Search Clear ?

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

- Then check all the databases you want to search and click on OK. For example if you are working on the rhetoric of Barack Obama, you might want to add *Academic Search Ultimate*, *Communication & Mass Media*, and *International Political Science Abstracts* databases to the *MLA International Bibliography* database,

EBSCOhost Searching: **MLA International Bibliography with Full Text** **Choose Databases**

Select a Field (optional) ▾

AND ▾

Select a Field (optional) ▾

AND ▾

Select a Field (optional) ▾

Search Clear ?

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

Detailed View (Title lists included)

☐ Select / deselect all

OK **Cancel**

☐ Abstracts in Social Gerontology

☒ **Academic Search Ultimate**

☐ AHFS Consumer Medication Information

☐ America: History and Life with Full Text

☐ American Antiquarian Society (AAS) Historical Periodicals Collection: Series 3

☐ American Antiquarian Society (AAS) Historical Periodicals Collection: Series 1

☐ American Antiquarian Society (AAS) Historical Periodicals Collection: Series 2

☐ American Antiquarian Society (AAS) Historical Periodicals Collection: Series 4

☐ American Antiquarian Society (AAS) Historical Periodicals Collection: Series 5

☐ American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies

☐ Anthropological Literature

☐ Art & Architecture Complete

☐ Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition

☐ Historical Abstracts with Full Text

☐ History of Science, Technology & Medicine

☐ Index Islamicus

☐ Index to Jewish Periodicals

☐ Index to Legal Periodicals & Books Full Text (H.W. Wilson)

☐ Inspec Archive - Science Abstracts 1898-1968

☐ International Bibliography of Theatre & Dance with Full Text

☒ **International Political Science Abstracts**

☐ LGBT Life with Full Text

☐ Library & Information Science Source

☐ MAS Ultra - School Edition

☐ MasterFILE Premier

☐ MathSciNet via EBSCOhost

☐ MEDLINE

Search Options

Search Modes and Expanders

Search modes ?

☐ Boolean/Phrase

☒ Find all my search terms

☐ Find any of my search terms

☐ SmartText Searching [Hint](#)

Limit your results

Full Text

☐

Publication Type

☒ All

☐ Book

☐ Book Article/Chapter

☐ Dissertation Abstract