



How to Find Book Reviews and Criticism

Reviews of Older Books (pre 1990s)

You will need to check the print indexes for reviews of older books. *Book Review Digest* and *Book Review Index* are the best places to start your search for older reviews.

Book Review Digest (for reviews dating back to 1905) – 2nd Floor Reference Section Z1219 C95

1. Look in the volume for the year your book was published and also the following year.
2. Look for the name of your author and then the name of the book for which you are searching.
3. Copy down the citation for the review so that you can track it down.
The citation will consist of the name of the original source or journal and the date and issue information.

Note: *Book Review Digest* provides you with part of the review, but you should try to track down the full review in the original publication.

Book Review Index (for reviews dating back to 1965) – 2nd Floor Reference Section Z1035 A1 B6

1. Look in the volume for the year your book was published and also the following year.
2. Look for the name of your author and then the name of the book for which you are searching.
3. Copy down the citation for the review so that you can track it down.

Hint: Check the front of the volume for any abbreviations with which you are unfamiliar.

Once you have the citations from the print indexes, you will need to see if SCC owns the periodical and which format we own (print, microfilm or microfiche). Ask a librarian to show you the printed Periodical Title list or how to search LOIS for individual periodical titles.

Newer Book Reviews (1990s onward)

Start with the research databases to search for book reviews. Your search should mention the name of the book and include the search terms **book review**.

Ebsco (All Databases) and JSTOR would be good places to try your search. These will find reviews in magazines, journals and newspapers.

If you don't find anything in the databases, try searching in the websites from "Book Reviews on the Internet" (see reverse).

Reviews of Works of Fiction

If you are looking for criticism of a work of fiction, there are some special techniques you can use to find more information.

- Start by doing a keyword search in the LOIS catalog (<http://lois.losrios.edu/>) to find books of criticism on your book. Try entering the name of the author or words from the title of the book.
- Search the Literature Resource Center database to find a variety of criticism on your work. The keyword search is your best search option. Try entering the name of the author or words from the title of the book.

How to Find Book Reviews on the Internet



You will find more reviews on the Internet if your book was published within the last few years. The library's electronic periodical indexes (*Ebsco and JSTOR*) also contain reviews of newer books. For older books and for more complete coverage of recent books, print sources such as *Book Review Digest* and *Book Review Index* still give the best results (see reverse).

1. Internet sites which link to *other* sites where you will find reviews:

AcqWeb – Find a wide variety of book review databases in several categories.
<http://acqweb.org/bookrev.html>

Internet Public Library – Search for the phrase **book reviews** or **literary criticism** for a list of databases.
<http://ipl.org>

Yahoo! – Search for the phrase “book reviews” (in quotes) to find databases.
<http://www.yahoo.com/>

2. Individual sites where you will find some reviews:

New York Times Book Review – Registration is free. Remember your password!
<http://www.nytimes.com/books/>

Booklist – Search for specific titles or scan list of reviews of current books.
<http://www.ala.org/booklist/index.html>

Library Journal – Find a selection of recent book reviews, or use the search box to look for a specific title.
<http://www.libraryjournal.com/csp/cms/sites/LJ/Reviews/Book/index.csp>

H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences – Search for a specific book title in the left-hand column (covers scholarly books).
<http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/>

Los Angeles Times Book Review – Find reviews for a limited number of current books.
<http://www.latimes.com/features/books/>

New York Review of Books – a very few, but good reviews.
<http://www.nybooks.com/nyrb/>

Amazon Books – an online bookstore with reviews of many current books.
<http://www.amazon.com>

Barnes & Nobles – similar to Amazon.
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/>

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