Library Resources and Research Techniques for English 206A

*Databases:* Provide access to published material in magazines, journals, newspapers, and other sources. The UMW Library subscribes to these databases and they are part of the “Deep Web,” as opposed to the “Surface Web” or “Free Web.”

**Finding the English Subject and Research Guide**

- Click on “Guides” in the blue tab on the Library home page, http://libraries.umw.edu, or click on “Research Guides” in the “Get Help” section.
  - Click on “English” (http://libguides.umw.edu/engl).

**Finding Background Material (subject encyclopedias and other reference works)**

- Define and narrow your topic; provide background material.
- Provide lists of other significant resources (that is, bibliographies).
- See UMW Libraries English web page (http://libguides.umw.edu/engl) for a list of some useful titles, especially under the categories “Writers” and “Literature by Region or Nationality.” For example:
  - Various volumes of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* are online in the *Gale Literary Sources* database, such as vol. 117 (*Twentieth-Century Caribbean and Black African Writers*), vol. 225 (*South African Writers*), and vol. 323 (*South Asian Writers in English*).

**Finding Books**

- Find books by author (last name first), title, subject headings (approved words and phrases that describe a topic), or just by typing words “anywhere.”
- Books are shelved by call number:  A – L (third floor) and M – Z (second floor).
- Reference books are on the first floor near the Reference Desk.

**Finding Books and Articles**

*Quest*

- A new search tool that allows users to find print and online resources at UMW Libraries through a single interface.
- Click on “Quest” from Library home page, http://libraries.umw.edu.
- A search in Quest will locate:
  - Books, e-books, journals, magazines, and newspapers, and DVDs
  - Articles from journals, magazines, newspapers, and much more
Finding Articles

- Links to databases and other resources that provide abstracts of articles (summaries) and full-text articles are available in the “Locating Articles” section of the UMW Libraries English subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/engl). For example, see:

Academic Search Complete (coverage varies; as far back as the 1880s to date)
- Includes thousands of full-text academic journals and periodicals in a wide variety of disciplines.
- **Important:** Can click on “Choose Databases” to add additional databases, such as Humanities Full Text, Humanities International Complete, Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective, 1907-1984; MasterFILE Premier, and OmniFile Full Text Mega.
- Can also choose all the databases that are provided by this particular publisher.

Gale Literary Sources (coverage varies)
- A full-text resource offering biographical and bibliographical information on living and deceased worldwide authors and their works.
- An advanced search enables users to construct searches using a variety of criteria.
  - For a title of a work, use “Name of Work” from the drop-down menu.
  - For an author, use “Person By or About” from the drop-down menu.
    - Scroll down or see right column for “content types” (biographies, literature criticism, topic and work overviews, etc.).
  - You can add a word or phrase to focus your search.

MLA International Bibliography (1926 to date)
- The leading annual bibliography of books and articles on literature, languages, folklore, and related topics.
- Includes easy-to-browse thesaurus and list of subject headings.

Citing Your Sources

- Provides links to MLA, Chicago / Turabian, and other specific citation styles.
- Remember to check your citations using the UMW guides!

Jack Bales, 9/2018
115 Simpson Library
jbales@umw.edu