

MEB annotations by Margaret Best, 3/5/07

Library Search Project

This assignment is designed to help you gain familiarity with some of the many resources available to you in our library. Answers to the following questions should be typed up and turned in on Tuesday, March 20th.

- There is no need to photocopy or print out full-texts of articles you locate.
- For each source you list, give complete bibliography information in MLA form.
- If there are questions you cannot completely answer, you will get partial credit for documenting your search process.

1. List two sources that are available in print in our library that would be useful if you were doing a project on various interpretations of *A Winter's Tale* by Shakespeare. One of these sources should specifically discuss some aspect of the performance of this play prior to 1900. In addition to bibliography information, include call number and a 1-2 sentence description of what kind of information the source contains.

MEB: Voyager subject search: Shakespeare William 1564-1616. Winters Tale
Or, go to ref stacks, get *Reader's Encyclopedia of Shakespeare* at
PR 2892 .C3. This source gives stage history of each play.

2. How many times does the 15th-century poet William Dunbar use the word "rose" in his complete works?

MEB: *Literature Online (LION)* database. Search author Dunbar William, then under Texts by William Dunbar, choose Search within texts, then keyword Rose. The answer is 7 times.

3. Use the MLA database to locate an article that probably discusses aspects of masculinity in the novel *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. In case you've never read it, the novel itself centers on the character Antonia, who is daughter of immigrants from Bohemia to the prairies of Nebraska. Told by her childhood friend Jim, who remembers Antonia as an almost mythic figure of womanhood and a symbol of his growing up, the novel features a sweeping sense of landscape as a backdrop to issues of individual maturation and difficulties of cultural assimilation.

MEB: *MLA Bibliography* database. Search keyword "my Antonia" and keyword masculinity. Resist the temptation to search by title and subject in *MLA*. Many pitfalls.

4. List three sources from different centuries that provide information on the Middle Passage. (It's fair game if older sources are available in reprints or electronic full-text as long as they are reproductions of originals rather than simply newly-written summaries with short quotations.)

MEB: Voyager **subject** search: Slave trade Africa. It is possible to do a Voyager keyword search of: Middle Passage. However, it is difficult to discern the publication dates of the sources that might be reprinted in each book.
Or, *History Resource Center US* database. Search keyword: slave trade. Take the tab "Primary sources."

5. Provide a complete citation for a review of each of the following books, published when the book first appeared. Also note where/how you found this information.

- a. Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* (1927)
MEB: *Book Review Digest* (print) index shelves first level (near Printer C) vol for 1927.
- b. Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble* (1990)
MEB: *Book Review Index Online* database
- c. Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* (1847)
MEB: Voyager **subject** search: Bronte Charlotte 1816-1855 criticism and interpretation history.
Or, *Nineteenth Century Masterfile* database. Search Jane Eyre, select Pooles.

6. Locate sources that might help you understand the issues at stake in Charles Dickens's novel *Hard Times* (1854). This novel focuses on the problems caused by the Industrial Revolution in England. You should find one each of the following kinds of sources:

- a. A website
MEB: Google advanced search (with the exact phrase) "industrial revolution" and (with at least one of the words) England Britain.
- b. A text written at about the same time as his novel, also dealing with some aspect of this issue.
MEB: Google book advanced search at books.google.com, (range 1820-1870) and (with the **exact phrase**) industrial revolution and (with **at least one** of the words) Britain England

- c. A recently-written text about this period in history
MEB: Voyager keyword "industrial Revolution" and keyword "social aspects"
- d. A scholarly article about this novel
MEB: *MLA Bibliography* database, keyword "Hard times" and keyword Dickens.

7. In what volumes of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, *Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism*, *Twentieth Century Literary Criticism*, and/or *Contemporary Literary Criticism* will you find articles about the following authors and their work? (List ALL articles by title, series title and volume)

MEB: *Literature Resource Center* database. Use section "Gale Literary Index". I am not sure whether Dr. Neufeld wants the students to retrieve each volume of *DLB* from the ARC to get "article title". Usually the article title is simply the name of the author who is the subject of the article, e.g., **Fanny Burney 1752-1840**.

The correct title of *NCLC* is *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism*, (REF PN 761.N5). *TCLC* is in Ref at PN 771 .G27. *CLC* is in Ref at PN 771 .C59.

Note that *DLB* is included full text in *Literature Resource Center*, but the "Gale Literary Index" does not link to or indicate that the *DLB* articles are included in the database. I try to stay calm while explaining this to students.

- a. Leslie Marmon Silko
MEB: *DLB* vols 143, 175, 256, 275. *NCLC* none. *TCLC* none. *CLC* vols 23, 74, 114, 211.
- b. Fanny Burney
MEB: *DLB* vol 39. *NCLC* vols 12, 54, 107. *TCLC* none. *CLC* none.