



# Book Reviews

A book review is an evaluation of a book in a periodical -- a magazine, journal or newspaper. Some periodicals are available in paper format and some are available online.

To look for a book review, you will need to know:

- The exact title of the book
- The original year the book was published (Use the earliest year listed on the back of the title page. If none listed, look up title in the Library Catalog. If there are no reviews for the year of publication, try succeeding years.)
- The last name of the author

## Print Resources:

### **Book Review Digest**

UMS TJ COM1 Z1219 .C95 1905-1970

UMS TJ REF INDEX Z1219.C95, 1971-present

*Book Review Digest* contains excerpts of book reviews that appear in a select list of magazines and journals.

### **Book Review Index** UMS TJ REF INDEX Z1035.A1 B62, 1965-present

Indexes book reviews from more magazines and journals than *Book Review Digest* but does not provide excerpts of the reviews. Search by author or title.

**Book Review Index to Social Science Periodicals** . 1964-1974, Vols. 1-4 UMS TJ REF INDEX Z1035 .A1 B63x

### **Choice.** (Magazine) UMS TJ PER Z1035 .C5. 1964 - .

This journal contains the largest number of academic book reviews.

### **Contemporary Literary Criticism.** UMS TJ REF PN771.C59, 1973-present.

Entries in this series contain substantial excerpts from book reviews and critics' remarks about an author and his/her works. TIPS: Use the cumulative index in the most current print volume. Another way to access entries in this series is to use *Gale's Literary Index* online database through the library's list of databases.

### **National Library Service Cumulative Book Review Index,** UMS TJ REF INDEX Z1035 .A1 N35 1975, 1905-1974.

Vols. 1-3 index reviews by author and vols. 4-6 index by the title of the book.

### **The New York Times Book Review Index.** UMS TJ REF INDEX AI.21 .N45x, 1896-1970, 5 vols.

Search by title or author in the year of publication or the year after the title was published. Can search the author (vol. 1) or the title (vol. 2) indexes with titles indexed under every significant title word. There are also subject, byline and category index volumes. Does not cover book reviews in the weekday *New York Times*. *NYT* book reviews are included in *Book Review Index*, 1965- (print) and in *LexisNexis Academic* (online).

### **Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature.** UMS TJ REF INDEX AI3 .R49, 1900-2000.

Lists book reviews under name of author. Includes book reviews at the end of the main body of text in a separate section titled "Book Reviews." Arranged by last name of author.

### **SFBRI: Science Fiction Book Review Index.** UMS TJ REF PN3448 .S45 S44x, 1970-1989, Vols. 1-20

## Database Resources:

These databases are available from the Libraries' home page (<http://www.umsl.edu/library>).

Choose "Databases, Sorted alphabetically", to find the following databases in the list.

Please note that not all databases contain full text articles. Some contain citations only.

### **Gale's Literary Index**

*Gale's Literary Index* is a master index to the major literature products published by Gale. This index covers 109 titles such as *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, and *Nineteenth-Century Literary Criticism*



**JSTOR** Full text articles from *JSTOR's Arts and Sciences I-IV Collections, Ecology & Botany Collections, and General Science Collection*. Coverage varies by journal. *JSTOR* employs a "moving wall" of coverage. For most publications, this means a two to five year gap between the most recently published issue and the date of the most recent issues available in *JSTOR*. Search tip: Choose Advanced Search, then in top box, type in title (or author) of book. Keep pull-down box at full text. Then select the disciplines/journals to search. Then limit your search to reviews.

***LexisNexis Academic***

A cross-disciplinary database, you may search for book reviews by clicking on News. Step One: Choose the News tab in the top right corner. Step Two: Type the book title and select "Headline & Lead Paragraph" from the drop-down box. Type book review in the next box and leave drop-down box at "Anywhere in the document." Step Four: Choose your sources from the drop-down box. Step Five: Specify your desired date range.

***MagillOnLiterature Plus***

Combines *MagillOnLiterature* and *MagillOnAuthors*. This database includes reviewed critical analyses for literary works called essay reviews. SEARCH TIP: Click on the Advanced Search tab at the top. In the first box, type in your book title or author, and in the second box, type in book review. Click on the Search button at the top of the page.

***MLA International Bibliography***

Indexes critical materials on modern language, literature, linguistics and folklore. Coverage is 1963-present. SEARCH TIP: Type in the title of the book and "book review."

***Project Muse***

*Project Muse* indexes 100+ scholarly journals in the Humanities and Social Sciences. SEARCH TIP: Select Advanced Search. Type in either the author or the title. Then below the search boxes choose Reviews Only. Click on the search button.

***Academic OneFile***

Search Tip: Select the Advanced Search option. In the search box type in either the title of the book or the author. Below the search box, under "By Document Type," choose Book Reviews.

***Academic Search Premier***

Search Tip: In the search box type in either the title of the book or the author. Below the search box, under "Document Type," choose Book Reviews.

***Internet Resources:***

**AcqWeb's Directory of Book Reviews on the Web**

A metasite of other book review sources. <http://www.acqweb.org/bookrev.html>

**Yahoo! Listing of Book Review sites -** <http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/humanities/literature/reviews/>

***For summaries and public review/opinions:***

**Amazon** at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). After doing a title search, scroll down to see any available editorial reviews.

**Barnes & Noble** at [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com). SEARCH TIP: Choose B&N Review in the top right corner of the screen.

**H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences -** <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/>

Coverage is from 1993 to present. H-Net Reviews is an online scholarly review journal that publishes book reviews, as well as reviews of film, software, museum exhibits, and World Wide Web sites. You can search by keyword or browse by year or review publication.

**Metacritic.com** – [www.metacritic.com/books/](http://www.metacritic.com/books/)

An online review site of popular opinion. Primarily currently published books. Metacritic.com also includes reviews of films, videos, music, games. "About Us" button explains procedures for reviews.

**New York Review of Books** – <http://www.nybooks.com>