

Finding Book Reviews

- ✧ A book review is an essay or article providing a critical evaluation of a book, usually reflecting the reviewer's personal opinion, which may analyze the book in terms of writing style, organization or structure and other criteria such as literary, cultural, or political significance. Book reviews are typically published in periodicals and newspapers. If you have an assignment requiring you to locate a find book review, make sure that reviews are available for your particular book **before** you begin working on your assignment. ✧

To find book reviews you need to know the **title, author and publication date** for the book. The publication date is important because it determines where you may find citations of book reviews. If the citations you find refer to reviews that are not available in a full-text database or in print at the library, you can order them through interlibrary loan (ILL). **Please allow five to ten days for delivery of any article you order through ILL.**

Logging into Online Databases – General Directions

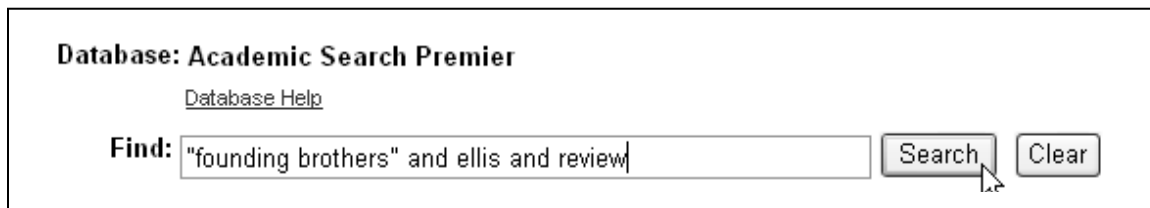
1. From the library's home page at <http://www.lsc.edu/library> click on **Databases A-Z**.
2. Your Borrower ID is the 14-digit library barcode number; the "PIN", is the last four digits of your Social Security Number; click **Log On**.
Note: You can go directly to the log on screen: <https://www.linccweb.org/eResources.asp>
3. Find the database you need and click on it.
4. Follow the directions below for the various individual databases.
 - a. Try the databases in the order given below.
 - b. If you find a review that sounds appropriate but the full text is not online, check with the librarian. The full text may be available in another database or LSCC may have back issues of the periodical. If not, you can request a copy of the review through Interlibrary Loan (ILL).
 - c. If you don't find any satisfactory reviews, try another online database or a print index.

Best Online Databases for Book Reviews

Academic Search Premier (for books published **after 1990**)

This database indexes over 4000 periodicals and includes many full-text book reviews.

1. In the **Find** box type the title of the book in quotes (searches for the title as a phrase) **and** the author's last name **and** the word review – see the example below.
2. Click on the **Search** button.



Database: Academic Search Premier

[Database Help](#)

Find: "founding brothers" and ellis and review

3. On the results screen, look for citations followed by **HTML Full Text** or **PDF Full Text**. If there is no full text, click on the article title for more details.

Book Review Digest Plus (for books published **after 1980**)

This database indexes reviews from about 100 major publications. If a book was widely reviewed, there may be several citations, some including short excerpts. More recent reviews may offer full text.

1. In the first **Search For** box, type the title of the book. In the dropdown box to the right, click on the arrow and choose **Title**.
2. In the second line, type the author's last name and from the dropdown list choose **Author, Personal**.
3. Where it says **Sort By**, choose **Relevance**. Click the **Start** button.

The screenshot shows a search form with the following elements:

- Search For:** A text box containing "parlor politics" and a dropdown menu set to "Title".
- and** (dropdown): A text box containing "allgor" and a dropdown menu set to "Author, Personal".
- and** (dropdown): A text box containing "and" and a dropdown menu set to "All - Smart Search".
- Sort By:** Radio buttons for "Date", "Relevance" (selected), and "Custom". A dropdown menu is set to "Title".
- Start** button.

4. On the results screen, all the articles that review a particular book will be grouped together under the book title. There may be separate lists for different editions. Make sure you're looking at the right list.
5. Look first at citations followed by **[with full text]** if there are any. Click on the article title for more details, including excerpts or full text where available.

JSTOR (for books published more than three years ago)

This database indexes book reviews that have appeared in core academic journals. Coverage runs from the first issue of each journal, but there is a one-to-five-year delay after print publication before the journal appears here. All articles are full text.

1. On the initial Jstor screen, choose **Search**
2. In the first box, type the name of the book, in quotation marks. In the dropdown menu on the right, choose **full-text**.
3. In the second line, type the author's last name, and from the dropdown menu choose **full-text** again.

The screenshot shows the JSTOR search interface with the following elements:

- Buttons: "Begin Search", "Clear", "OR", "Go to Advanced Search".
- ENTER SEARCH TERMS** section:
- Text box: "a midwife's tale" with a dropdown menu set to "full-text".
- AND** (dropdown): Text box "ulrich" with a dropdown menu set to "full-text".
- AND** (dropdown): Text box "review" with a dropdown menu set to "full-text".
- AND** (dropdown): Text box "AND" with a dropdown menu set to "title".

4. **STOP.** Don't click the **Begin Search** button yet.
5. Scroll down to the list of disciplines and check the box by **History**.
6. Scroll down to **Limit by Type**. Uncheck **articles** and check **reviews**.
7. Scroll down to the bottom and click the **Begin Search** button.
8. Scan the results carefully. Look for titles that clearly indicate that your book is reviewed. The list may include reviews of other books that only happen to mention yours.

Book Reviews in Print Indexes

For books published before 1983, try print indexes. Use the print volumes of *Book Review Digest* first. Other print sources include: *Biography Index*, *Humanities Index*, and *Social Sciences Index*. These are all located in the reference section of the Leesburg Campus library. At other branches, ask the librarian can contact Leesburg.

1. Find the index volume covering the publication year of your book. You may also need to try the year after publication, and/or the year before publication.
2. In the index, look for the title or author of the book alphabetically.
3. Ask your librarian for help finding print or microfilm copies of the reviews listed in the index. You may have to order reviews through ILL.