

TIPS ON LOCATING SHAKESPEAREAN RESEARCH MATERIALS

Several students have contacted me about help with research sources for their research papers. To avoid needless repetition, I include below some suggestions for research sources that may be generally applicable to the class as a whole.

One resource you might look at is the *MLA International Bibliography on-line*. The Modern Language Association is the largest collection of literature and language articles in America, and its now available on the web. (Their website often misses important articles from medieval and Renaissance scholarship, but its ease of use more than makes up for that difficulty if you want to get started with your initial search; after you've searched it, you then should hit more specific sources.)

You can find a link to the *MLA International Bibliography* off the University of Oregon Library's Janus system <<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/janus.html>>. From there, scroll down to the "Alphabetical List" under Indexes and Abstracts. When you click on "Alphabetical List," you can then click on the letter "M" and scroll down alphabetically to find the "MLA International Bibliography." Then, you can search for keywords such as "Fool" and "Shakespeare" or "Clown" or other specific plays. Shakespeare and Fool found, when I searched in a format limited to English articles, 76 potential sources. (Doing a search engine like Google search or Alta Vista will produce 45,000 sources, but hardly any of them are useful. The MLA is much superior in that sense, because none of the listed articles will be stores trying to sell you Shakespeare mugs--though of varying quality, they are all scholarly articles.)

The web is **only** a starting point. Next, you need to turn to hardcopy if you are going to do real research. Turn to the Shakespeare bibliographies. I include some starting points below, along with the Knight Library call number. The ones that say "annotated" or "discursive" are particularly useful, because they provide short summaries of the listed articles to give you a better idea of what each author argues, rather than just the title and subject of the book or journal entry.

Bate, John, F.L.A. *How to find out about Shakespeare*. Z8811 .B35 (a bit out of date, designed for beginners).

Berman, Ronald. *A Reader's Guide to Shakespeare's Plays; a Discursive Bibliography*. Z8811 .B45 1973.

Bergeron, David Moore. *Shakespeare: a Study and Research Guide II*. PR2894 .B47 1995. Also available in reference, Z8811.B44 1987.

Champion, Larry S. *The Essential Shakespeare: an Annotated Bibliography of Major Modern Studies*. PR2894 .C475 1993 Also available in reference, Z8811.C53 1986.

Ebisch, Walther. *A Shakespeare Bibliography, by Walther Ebisch in Collaboration with Levin L. Schücking*. Z8811 .E18.

- Howard-Hill, T. H. (Trevor Howard). *Shakespearian Bibliography and Textual Criticism: a Bibliography*. Z2011.A1H68 v. 2.
- Jaggard, William. *Shakespeare Bibliography; a Dictionary of Every Known Issue of the Writings of the Poet and of Recorded Opinion thereon in the English Language*. Z8811 .J21 1959. (Only goes up to 1947).
- Kolin, Philip C. *Shakespeare and Feminist Criticism: an Annotated Bibliography and Commentary*. PR2965 .K65. (Goes up to 1991).
- Payne, Waveney R. N. *A Shakespeare Bibliography*. Z8811 .P35.
- Quinn, Edward. *The Major Shakespearean Tragedies; a Critical Bibliography by Edward Quinn*. Z8812 .Q54.
- Raven, Anton Adolph. *A Hamlet Bibliography and Reference Guide, 1877-1935*. Z8812.H2 R2 1966 (Not good for latest research, but good for tracking down the really old articles that are sometimes hard to locate).
- Sajdak, Bruce T. *Shakespeare Index: an Annotated Bibliography of Critical Articles on the Plays*. PR2894 .S25 1992.
- Wells, Stanley, W., ed. *Shakespeare: A Bibliographical Guide*. PR2894 .S42 1990.
- . *Shakespeare: Select Bibliographical Guides*. PR2894 .W35 1973.
- Woodbridge, Linda. *Shakespeare, a selective bibliography of modern criticism*. PR2892.W66 1988.
- Velz, John W. *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar: a Bibliography to Supplement the New Variorum Edition of 1913*. Z8811.A3.

A FEW BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF SPECIFIC PLAYS:

You can find more bibliographies by searching Janus for the name of the specific play along with keywords or subjects such as "bibliography." A few samplers:

The Garland Shakespeare Bibliographies (one for each play, I believe).

Bains, Y. S. *Antony and Cleopatra: an Annotated Bibliography*. PR2802 .B34 1998.

Mikesell, Margaret Lael. *Othello, an Annotated Bibliography*. PR2829 .M544 1990.

Smith, John Hazel. *Shakespeare's Othello: a Bibliography*. PR2829 .S57 1988.

Tannenbaum, Samuel Aaron. *Shakespeare's Macbeth* Z8812.M12 T2 (really old stuff).

---. *Shakspere's Othello (a concise bibliography)*. Z8812.O8 T3. (More really old stuff).

Wheeler, *Macbeth, an Annotated Bibliography* ER2823 .W444 1990.

Once you've found sources in the bibliographies, you can look up the books by title or author. You can find journal and periodical articles by plugging in the name of the journal in the Janus card catalog, just like the title of a book. Then, when you find the call number, you can go to that location in the library and look for the specific volume and issue number. Most journals cannot be checked out, so you will need to xerox the specific articles that are pertinent to your argument in the research paper.

MAJOR SHAKESPEARE JOURNALS

Shakespeare-Jahrbuch (U of O only has volumes 61-128, and 136-136.) PR 2889 .D4

Shakespeare Newsletter

Shakespeare Quarterly

Shakespearean Research and Opportunities

Shakespeare Studies

Shakespeare Survey

The Upstart Crow: A Shakespeare Journal

If a source is not available at the Knight Library or on campus, you can often find it in Orbis (a collaboration of eight major libraries in Oregon that share books with each other.) Books can be "Orbised" to you fairly quickly, but it still takes 2-5 days on average. If you can't find the source listed in Orbis, you can try Worldcat to search all the libraries in the world, and then request it from Interlibrary Loan. (This, however, may take 2 weeks or more--it is an act of desperation.)

Good luck, and happy hunting.