



# MLA International Bibliography

## A Step-by-Step Guide to Finding Literary Criticism

MLA International Bibliography is an online library resource that provides a way to search for citations to journal articles, books, dissertations and other materials about literature. The database has the complete text for a limited number of journal articles.

### How to Access the MLA International Bibliography

1. Go to the Blinn College Library Homepage: <http://www.blinn.edu/library>
2. Select "Journal, Magazine & Newspaper Articles"
3. Select "A to Z List of Indexes"
4. Select "MLA International Bibliography". If you are accessing this database from off campus you will be prompted to enter a user name (student ID #) and password (date of birth (yyyymmdd)).

### How to Search for Literary Criticism

**Step One.** Type the title of the novel, short story, or poem in the first search input box. Click on "Search."

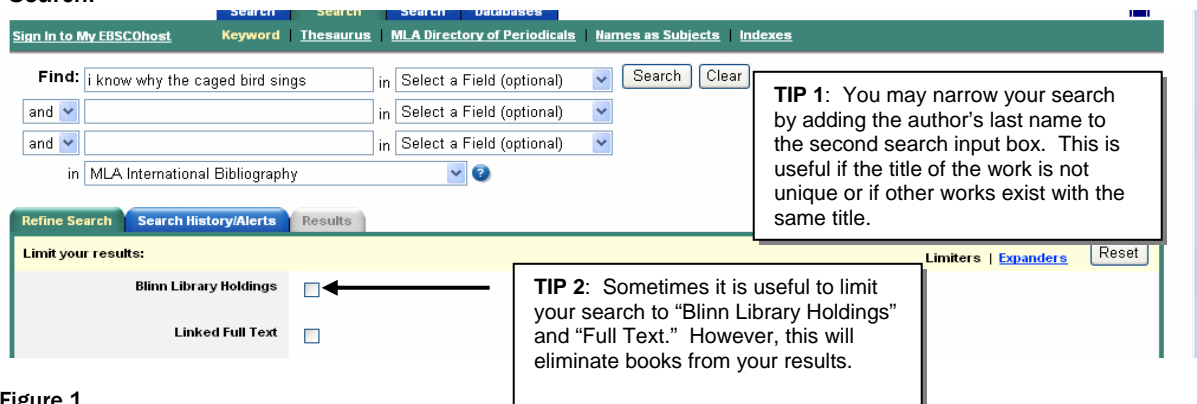


Figure 1

**Step Two:** Scroll down to view a list of article, book, and dissertation citations (fig.2). A limited number of references will say "Linked Full Text." This indicates that the complete text of the article is available online in either HTML or PDF format. PDF Full Text is the scanned image of the print journal article and requires Adobe Acrobat Reader to view. HTML Full Text contains the plain text of the article. "Linked Full Text" is not available for book articles.



Figure 2

**Step Three:** Click on "Linked Full Text" (e.g., record two from fig. 2) to access the complete article.

## How to Find Book Articles

To determine if Blinn library has the books cited in your results (e.g., record three from fig. 2) search the online catalog by book title. For example, the book title for record three is “Maya Angelou’s I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.”

**Tip 3:** A simple way to determine the book title is to click on the title of the book article (underlined on fig. 2). This takes you to the full record view. The full record view breaks the citation into fields and gives other useful information about the citation. The book title is listed in the “**Source**” field. Use this tip for finding journal titles as well.

## How to Find Journal Articles When “Linked Full Text” is Unavailable

If the “Linked Full Text” is not available but a “Notes” field is present saying “Blinn Library subscribes to this periodical,” then you may find your article in the library. In order to find the article in the library, first you must know how to identify the journal title in an article citation. The journal title follows the author’s name. For example, in record 48 (from fig. 3), the journal title is “College Language Association Journal” and in record 49 the journal title is “Notes on Contemporary Literature.” Alternatively, you may follow tip three to find the journal title in the “Source” field.



48. <a href="#">Death as Metaphor of Self in I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</a> By: Arensberg, Liliane K.; College Language Association Journal, 1976; 20: 273-91. (journal article) ISSN: 0007-8549 Sequence number: 1976-1-9621 Accession number: 1976109621 <b>Notes:</b> Blinn Library subscribes to this periodical	 <a href="#">Add</a>
49. <a href="#">Fatalism in Maya Angelou's I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</a> By: Hiers, John T.; Notes on Contemporary Literature, 1976; 6 (1): 5-7. (journal article) ISSN: 0029-4047 Sequence number: 1976-1-9622 Accession number: 1976109622 <b>Notes:</b> Blinn Library subscribes to this periodical	 <a href="#">Add</a>

Figure 3

Once you have identified the journal title, search the online catalog by journal title to determine the journal’s location and the library’s holdings for the journal. You may request articles from journals that are at other Blinn campuses.

## Citing Full Text Articles from Subscription Databases

A citation for a full text journal article retrieved from a library subscription database includes additional information such as the name of the database, the database service (e.g. EBSCO), the library providing access, and the date of access. Speak to your instructor for guidelines in citing these articles. The library has copies of various style manuals for library use and check out.

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