Reading Tolkien Reading Beowulf
ENGL 290-003

Check subject guides under: Research by Subject → English Language and Literature

Background Information

Specialized encyclopedias, dictionaries and other resources are useful for obtaining background information on a topic, in addition to helping you focus your topic and identify the main concepts, terms and keywords that describe your topic. Check Reference Resources in the subject guide. Also check the following resources:

British Novelists, 1930-1959 (part of series, Dictionary of Literary Biography)
Dictionary of National Biography (via Databases)

Finding Books and Journal Articles

Research tools to consider: QCAT, Summon, Article Indexes & Databases, and Google Scholar.

1. Books

Search QCAT to find specific titles, authors and redefined subjects. For example:

tolkien j [search by subject]
beowulf [search by subject]

2. Articles

Search the following electronic journal databases to find scholarly articles:

→ MLA International Bibliography
→ Literature Online (LION)

To find articles on your topic, think of the words that best describe your topic and then connect them with the Boolean operators: AND, OR, NOT.

To search indexes, click the tab Databases and enter the title of the database, e.g. MLA.

Tolkien AND lord of the rings
Modify search to search Tolkien as SAU and lord of the rings as SWK

To find out if Queen's subscribes to the journal, click Get It! @ Queen's if full text not readily available.

Search LION to find information about authors and criticism - also reference sources.

Search as Author: Tolkien J
Search as Criticism: tolkien AND beowulf
3. Summon

With Summon, you can search, discover and access information on any topic from the Queen's Library collections – print and electronic books, single articles to entire e-journals, newspapers, theses and more. You can limit your results to peer-reviewed materials, filter by year and format, narrow by additional subject terms and then save, print or email references.

Summon is a good starting point to find material for your research but if you are doing higher level research, you will want to search relevant subject specific databases.

Search the Web

Check our Search the Web guide: library.queensu.ca/research/guide/search-web

Google  Google Advanced Search  www.google.ca/advanced_search
Google Scholar  scholar.google.ca/

By searching Google Scholar through the Queen’s Library website, the "Get It! @ Queen’s" citation linker is activated (which allows you to click through to the Library’s subscriptions).

Evaluate Sources

Evaluating all of your sources is a crucial step of the research process. Go to the library guide Evaluating Sources for criteria on how to judge information sources (especially for websites).

Cite Sources

Check our Citation and Style Guides page at: How-to & Help → How to Cite Sources

MLA is the preferred style of documentation in English literature. Check QCAT for print copies in the library system as well as online assistance.

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Stauffer Library
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