



ILLUMINA

**MLA International Bibliography
Database Guide**

2008 Edition

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10 Reasons to Use the MLA Database on CSA Illumina

1. Over 2,107,000 records including over 4,400 serial publications.
2. 52 searchable fields.
3. 26 browsable indexes including Author, Influence, Literary Genre, Literary Technique, Place, Scholarly Theory, and 19 other indexes.
4. Two thesauri with three different ways to search them:
 - a. An extensive hierarchy of more than 45000 descriptive terms and a personal names thesaurus with more than 327,000 names.
 - b. 3 different ways to search and view—alphabetically, hierarchically, or search for any word that can occur in a term using the rotated (permuted) index.
5. The ability to cross-search with other CSA Illumina databases and filter out duplicate records.
6. Limit searches to Full-Text on JSTOR, Peer-Reviewed journals, or exclude Dissertation Abstracts from a search.
7. Limit by Journal Articles only, English Only, or Latest Update (records most recently added to MLA).
8. Refine a search to find records in a specific Genre, Language, Publication Type, or Time Period.
9. Quick creation of bibliographies for marked records in the MLA style or a few other formats using QuikBib.
10. Access to Discovery Links to find new content related to your research.

What is MLA and why should I use it?*

The MLA International Bibliography is a subject index for books and articles published on modern languages, literatures, folklore, and linguistics. It is produced by the Modern Language Association (MLA), an organization dedicated to the study and teaching of language and literature.

The electronic version of the Bibliography dates back to 1926 and contains over 2 million citations from more than 4,400 periodicals (including peer-reviewed e-journals) and 1,000 book publishers.

Coverage includes literature from all over the world--Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America. Folklore is represented by folk literature, music, art, rituals, and belief systems. Linguistics and language materials range from history and theory of linguistics, comparative linguistics, semantics, stylistics, and syntax to translation. Other topics include literary theory and criticism, dramatic arts (film, radio, television, theater), and history of printing and publishing.

MLA is compiled by the staff of the MLA Department of Bibliographic Information Services with the cooperation of more than 100 contributing bibliographers in the United States and abroad. Such international coverage is represented by literature from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America, and while the majority of records are from English-

language publications, at least sixty other languages are represented including French, Spanish, German, Russian, Portuguese, Norwegian, and Swedish.

Subscription to the MLA International Bibliography also includes access to the MLA Directory of Periodicals database.

The database also has an identifiable subset of more than 100,000 records that constitute the JSTOR subfile. This consists of citation records for documents in JSTOR's Language and Literature Collection. The documents date back as far as 1881 and contain direct links to the full-text articles on the JSTOR website, available to subscribers of JSTOR, as well as relevant articles from more than 100 other JSTOR titles.

Subject Coverage:

- National literatures (200+ national literatures)
- History and theory of linguistics
- Comparative linguistics
- Semantics
- Stylistics
- Syntax
- Translation
- Teaching of language
- Literary theory and criticism
- Dramatic arts (film, radio, television, theater)
- History of printing and publishing
- Teaching of literature
- Rhetoric and composition
- Folk literature
- Folk music
- Folk art
- Rituals
- Belief systems

Searchable Field Codes:

Field Code	Label	Search Example:
Accession Number	AN=	AN=(2005580185)
Author	AU =	AU=(Almond, Ian)
Degree Information	DG=	<i>Note: Mostly associated with dissertations. Find by granting institution name or year.</i> DG=(U Washington) DG=(2005)
Descriptors	DE=	DE=(anthropological criticism)
Dissertation Number	DA=	DA=(DA3178099)
DOI	DO=	DO=(10.1080/1050958032000136971)
Editor	ED=	ED=(Busby, Keith)
Folklore	D1=	D1=(material culture)
Group	D4=	D4=(Native American writers)
Influence	D6=	D6=(Shakespeare, William) D6=(modern painting)
ISBN	IB=	IB=(0820472077)
ISSN	IS=	IS=(0002-7294)
Journal Issue	JI=	JI=(25)
Journal Name	JN=	JN=(Mosaic)
Journal Pages	JP=	JP=(126) JP=(126-34) JP=(B5)
Journal Supplement	JS=	JS=(suppl.)
Journal Volume	JV=	JV=(4)
Keywords	KW=	KW=(philosophy)
Language	LA=	LA=(Japanese)
Literary Genre	D2=	D2=(comic book)
Literary Source	G5=	G5=(August Wilson)
Literary Technique	E1=	E1=(political humor)
Literary Theme	G1=	G1=(nationalism) G1=(1940s)
Linguistic Topic	D7=	D7=(morphology)
Media	G2=	G2=(theater)
Monograph Title	MT=	<i>Note: Books and book chapters/essays</i> MT=(Oxford Companion)
Notes	NT=	Usually text or edition information NT=(eds OR edition) NT=(<code>[text]</code>)
Other Terms	G6=	G6=(theatre museum)
Peer Reviewed	PE=	PE=(no) or PE=(yes)
Place	D8=	<i>Note: city, state, regional, or country names</i> D8=(United States)

		D8=(California) D8=(San Francisco)
Process	D9=	D9=(textual editing) D9=(screenwriting)
Publisher	PB=	PB=(Multilingual Matters)
Publication Date	PD=	<i>Note: Most be 8 digits (YYYYMMDD)</i> PD=(20041216)
Publication Location	PL=	PL=(Clevedon, England)
Publication Month	PM=	PM=(December)
Publication Type	PT=	PT=(book)
Publication Year	PY=	PY=(2004)
Scholar	E4=	<i>Note: Scholarly Topics sometimes including author names.</i> E4=(Racism in Conrad's Heart of Darkness) Et=(Conrad)
Scholarly Approach	E2=	E2-(biographical approach)
Scholarly Literature	E9=	E9=(Scottish literature)
Scholar Theory	E5=	E5=(manuscript study)
Scholarly Tool	E6=	E6=(videotape)
Series Title	SR=	SR=(Cambridge Companions to Literature)
Source	SO=	SO=(German Life and Letters)
Specific Language	E8=	E8=(Esperanto Language) E8=(Brazilian Portuguese dialect)
Specific Literature	E9=	<i>Ex. [nationality] + literature or place name</i> E9=(German literature) E9=(Paris)
Subject Author	E3=	E3=(Kesey, Ken (1935-2001))
Subject Language	L1=	<i>Note: references the articles subject language</i> L1=(Chinese language literature)
Subject Work	G3=	G3=(Moby Dick)
Table of Contents	TB=	<i>Note: Records with table of contents from books</i> TB=(Part 1) TB=(Rethinking the Age)
Time Period	G4=	G4=(1800-1899)
Title	TI=	TI=(Science Fiction Chronicle)
Translated Work	G7=	G7=(Dream of the Red Chamber)
Update	UD=	<i>Note: ex. YYYYMM</i> UD=(197401) UD=(200502)

Special descriptors (D1-D9, E1-E9, G1-G7, and L1) can be searched individually or searched all together by using the general descriptor field code (DE)

Special field information

ISSN: The number following the serial title is the ISSN (*International Standard Serial Number*) which is an eight digit number that uniquely identifies a periodical or journal. When you want to search for an ISSN, type IS= followed by the standard ISSN format with the hyphen between the first 4 and the second 4 characters, e.g.: IS=(0002-953X) .

Keyword: Keyword searches three fields at the same time. They are the article title (TI), abstracts (AB), and descriptor (DE) fields.

Publication Type

MLA indexes five publication types that are searchable on CSA Illumina by using the field code PT. These document types include book, book chapter, book collection, dissertation abstract, and journal article.

The publication types (PT=) represented in MLA by percentage:

Book:	10%
Book Chapter:	19%
Book Collection:	1%
Dissertation:	6%
Journal Article:	64%

Language

MLA International Bibliography indexes approximately 295 various languages and dialects from Abkhaz to Zulu.

Note: You can search by language group. Under the Search Tools tab - Indexes – Language Index includes various dialects, languages, and language groups. Records can be searched by these languages groups as well as individual languages and dialects.

Language Groups include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• African languages• Bantu languages• Celtic languages• central Melanesian languages• Chinese languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Micronesian languages• Mongol languages• native American languages• Slavic languages• languages other than English
---	--

There is also one language category for languages other than English (LA=languages other than English).

MLA Selection Policy*

What is the scope of the *MLA International Bibliography*?

MLA indexers review books and journals for material that relate to all forms of human communication. Coverage includes literature from all over the world--Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America. Folklore is represented by folk literature, music, art, rituals, and belief systems. Linguistics and language materials range from history and theory of linguistics, comparative linguistics, semantics, stylistics, and syntax to translation. Other topics include literary theory and criticism, dramatic arts (film, radio, television, theater), and history of printing and publishing.

For a complete list of the journals indexed in the database, access the Serial Source List [here](#).

Guidelines for Inclusion of Electronic Publications:

Electronic Periodicals

The *MLA International Bibliography* includes serial publications in electronic form. To be included, they must meet the following criteria.

- Be only electronic. Cannot have an identical print version.
- Be examined by an indexer and designated as ML.
- Identify the editor and editorial board.
- Have a stated editorial policy.
- Identify the publisher and/or sponsoring organization.
- Provide for archiving of past issues (i.e., provide for continuing access).
- Publish new content periodically.

Electronic serials generally have an ISSN, CODEN, or digital object identifier and are sponsored by an academic organization or institution.

Online Bibliographies

The *MLA International Bibliography* includes online bibliographies. To be included, they must meet the following criteria.

- Be only electronic. Cannot have an identical print version.
- Be examined by an indexer.
- Include a stated editorial scope (including range of material, classification scheme, methodology, procedure).
- Identify the publisher and/or sponsoring organization (cannot be self-published).
- Provide for archiving (i.e., provide for continuing access).

Electronic Monographs

The *MLA International Bibliography* includes electronic monographs. To be included, they must meet the following criteria.

- Be only electronic. Cannot have an identical print version.
- Be examined by an indexer.
- Identify the author, editor, and/or editorial board.
- Have a stated editorial scope (including format, update frequency, date of publication, schedule of updates).
- Identify the publisher and/or sponsoring organization (cannot be self-published).
- Provide for archiving (i.e., provide for continuing access).

Guidelines for Inclusion of Scholarly Web Sites

Web Sites

The *MLA International Bibliography* includes scholarly web sites. To be included, web sites must meet the following criteria.

- Be only electronic. Sites also available in print will be indexed as such with an additional note regarding site information.
- Be examined by an indexer who applies current print criteria when appropriate and who designates it as within the scope of the bibliography.
- Identify the editor, publisher, and/or scholarly organization.

For a web site to be considered for inclusion in the bibliography, please send an e-mail that includes the URL to bibliography@mla.org.

Tools Supported by CSA Illumina

Boolean Operators

Boolean operators help define the relationships between words or groups of words.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| AND | Use to narrow a search and retrieve records containing all of the words it separates |
| OR | Use to broaden a search and retrieve records containing any of the words it separates. |
| NOT | Use to narrow a search and retrieve records that do not contain the term following it. |
| () | Use to group words or phrases when combining Boolean phrases and to show the order in which relationships should be considered |

Proximity Operators

Proximity operators identify the number of words to come between the search terms.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| WITHIN | Use to narrow a search by specifying a proximity relationship of |
| “X” | fewer than “X” words between search terms. |

NEAR Use to narrow a search by specifying a proximity relationship of fewer than 10 words between search terms.

Special Symbols

Special symbols can expand the scope of your search.

- * Truncate using the wild card symbol *. This expands a search term to include forms of a root word, e.g. delinquen* retrieves delinquency, delinquent, etc.
- * Find an unlimited number of characters within a word, e.g. behavi*r retrieves behavior and behaviour. *Tip: Good when searching both American and British spelling of English.*
- ? Find alternative spellings. The ? represents any single character; ?? represents two characters and so on. Use within or at the end of a word, e.g. wom?n finds woman as well as women. *Tip: Good when searching for both singular and plural versions of a word.*

Note: Search queries containing several operators search in the following order: (), NEAR, NOT, AND, OR

Ready, Set, Search!

Using CSA Illumina Platform to Search MLA in Quick, Advanced, or Command Mode

Now that you have an understanding of what MLA International Bibliography is and how the searchable field codes and search tools function, you are now ready to search the database through CSA Illumina.

Clicking on ‘**Help & Support**’ at any time will direct you to a context-specific Help page.

Limits

Search strategies may be refined by using the following limits (available in ‘Advanced Search’ and ‘Command Search’):

- *Latest Update* limits your results to include only the most recent records that were added to the database. MLA International Bibliography is updated 9 times a year.
- *Journal Articles Only* limits the search to only include the publication type of journal articles.
- *English Only* limits retrieval to only records that are available in English. The majority of records are from English-language publications, yet records can be found in French, German, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish and Romanized versions of some Asian languages (e.g. Japanese). If two languages are mentioned in the record, the article title and source are written in the first language listed.

Limited to: Latest Update Journal Articles Only English Only

Limits only available in MLA International Bibliography

- *Peer-Reviewed* limits retrieval to only records from Peer-Reviewed journals. Peer- review requires that each article submitted for publication is judged by an independent panel of experts (scholarly or scientific peers). If peer-reviewed status is not provided by the publisher, information from Ulrich's Directory of Periodicals is used to determine peer-reviewed status.
- *Ful-Text on JSTOR* limits retrieval only to records from JSTOR full-text collection. JSTOR full-text requires a separate subscription from MLA. JSTOR is listed in the Subfile field.
- *Publication Type* limits retrieval by publication type (book, book chapter, book collection, dissertation abstract, or journal article). You can further restrict searches to not include dissertation abstracts marking the Exclude Dissertation Abstracts box.
- *Language* limits retrieval by language or dialect. There 295+ languages or dialects to choose from.
- *Genre* limits retrieval by specific MLA defined genre (e.g. Autobiography, Biography, Drama, Fiction, Letters, Novel, Periodicals, Poetry, Prose, Saga, and Short story).
- *Time Period* limits retrieval by hundred-year time periods from B.C. to 2000-2099 A.D.

Peer Reviewed
 Full-Text on JSTOR
 Unlimited
 book
 book chapter
 Exclude Dissertation Abstracts

Sorting

The sorting features give you the opportunity to order your results based on the publication date or relevancy.

- **Most Recent First** displays the records in order beginning with the most recent.
- **Relevance Rank** displays records in order based on relevancy. Relevancy is determined through a rating system that weighs the records based on the number of times the term(s) appear in the record and where they appear.

Sort by: Most Recent First Go
 Most Recent First
 Relevance Rank

Displaying Records

Select how to display records from the 'Show' pull-down menu. Options include displaying them in short format, full format, full format-omit references, and custom format.

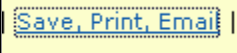
The 'de-dupe' feature automatically removes any duplicate records that appear in your set of results, which is especially useful when you are searching multiple databases at the same time. You can also use the 'Show Duplicates' feature to display the duplicates. It is link located below the last record on the results page.

When viewing records on CSA Illumina both the author and descriptors are hot-linked. Clicking on the hot-link will search the database for each occurrence of the selected author or descriptor.

Show Short format Go
 Short format
 Full format
 Full format – no references
 Custom format

Printing, Saving and Emailing Records

Printing, saving, and e-mailing records can be done by using the ‘Save, Print, E-mail’ function. This function also includes an exporting feature to a number of bibliographic managers such as RefWorks and the use of our output format editor, QuikBib.



Value Added Features

Thesaurus Search

There are two thesauri *MLA Personal Names* and *MLA Thesaurus (Descriptor terms)* MLA may be searched directly from the Thesaurus, using the Thesaurus Search Feature.



- *Alphabetical* display presents an alphabetical list of thesaurus terms.
- *Hierarchy* displays terms in their hierarchical relationships to other terms: Broader Terms (BT), Narrower Terms (NT), and Related Terms (RT) and Use For (UF).
- *Rotated Index* searches for individual terms. It looks for the term anywhere in the Thesaurus phrase either at the beginning, middle or end of a phrase.

Browse Indexes

Searches may also be activated through 26 browsable indexes: Author, Journal Name, Language and Publication Type.

- Author Index
- Folklore Index
- Group Index
- Influence Index
- Journal Name Index
- Language Index
- Literary Genre Index



- Literary Source Index
 - Literary Technique Index
 - Literary Theme Index
 - Media Index
 - Other Terms Index
 - Process Index
 - Publication Type Index
 - Scholar Index
 - Scholarly Approach Index
 - Scholarly Theory Index
 - Scholarly Tools Index
 - Specific Language Index
 - Specific Literature Index
 - Subject Author Index
 - Subject Language Index
 - Subject Work Index
 - Time Period Index
 - Translated Work Index
-

The Research Process

D) How to begin the electronic research process

A. Determine your goals:

1. State your research question:
"What are the current issues in the debate of teaching Ebonics?"
2. Set parameters for your search (i.e., ethnicity, geographical location, gender, technology, etc.) What will limit your research process to? For Example:

"Which ethnic groups does Ebonics affect?"

"Is Ebonics still considered to be limited to African Americans?"

"Is Ebonics limited to specific geographic areas?"

"Which geographical location will you focus on (National, State, Regional, Metropolitan city, Inner city, California, Los Angeles, CA, Oakland, CA, other areas)?"

"Are there different issues for boys and for girls?"

"Is technology being used to resolve issues with Ebonics?"

"What type of technology if any is being used with Ebonics (i.e. Books, Worldwide Web, PDAs, software, video, others) ?"

B. Identify general concepts:

1. Which general terms relate to your search?
"African Americans"; "Black English"; "Ebonics"; "teaching minorities"; "literacy"

C. Choose the appropriate resources

1. Are there specific journals that specialize on issues related to African-Americans Education and Language?

African Language Studies

African Languages and Cultures

Are there other journals of more general scope that might have information for what we are research?

[American Language Review](#)
[College English](#)
[Afro-Hispanic Review](#)

- 2 Are any of these journals covered in CSA's MLA International Bibliography? (Note: View the MLA serial source list [here](#). Additional journal publication information can be found in the MLA Directory of Periodicals database.
- 3 What other resources are available such as books, dissertations, reports, reviews, scholar and authoritative websites?

II) Build your search strategy:

A. Quick search:

1. Enter a phrase or multiple search terms separated by Boolean operators. Use AND to find all terms, OR to link similar words or synonyms:

"Ebonics"

If you receive few records expand the search with OR

"Ebonics" OR "Black English"

If you receive too many records limit the search with AND

"Black English" AND "education"

or

"Black English" AND "Oakland, California"



Note: Consult thesauri for proper use of terms.

B. Advanced Search:

The drop boxes allow you to limit the search by any of the searchable field codes including Keyword (KW), Author (AU), Journal Name (JN), Descriptor (DE), Abstract (AU), or Title (TI). You can also limit your search to specific publication years and choose the record format. The descriptor field (DE) and abstract field (AB) will allow you to narrow your search even more by locating specific descriptors and terms in the abstract. Keyword is the only field code that searches more than one field. Keyword searches the Title (TI), Abstract (AB), and Descriptor (DE) fields all at once.

Example: I could limit my search to:

JN=(American Language Review) OR JN=(College English) AND DE=(Black English dialect)

or

DE=(Black English dialect) AND KW=((elementary) OR (primary education))

III) Analyzing Results

A. Good results:

If results are satisfactory, then download them to a bibliographic manager like RefWorks; alternatively, save, print, email your citations, or output them via CSA's QuikBib.

B. If results are not on target:

1. Check spelling of search terms and use a thesaurus. The available thesauri are
 - MLA Personal Name
 - MLA Thesaurus
2. Use the Browsable Indexes to remove unnecessary or misleading terms. There are 26 browsable indexes. See pages 11-12 for the complete list.
3. Find more specific terms: look at the descriptors (DE) of your records. Are there terms you can use to find more information for your research? Below is a short list of descriptors from records on Ebonics in MLA International Bibliography.
 - Black English dialect
 - Black English dialect literature
 - dialectology
 - education policy
 - education reform

- ethnolinguistic approach
- English language (modern)
- in first-year composition
- relationship to education reform
- relationship to race
- role of Black English dialect
- use of Black English dialect

4. You may need to rethink whether the database you selected is appropriate for your search.

C. Too few/too many results:

1. Increase retrieval by using fewer ANDs and more ORs and you will retrieve more records.

Example: KW=(Ebonics) OR (Black English)

2. Increase precision by using additional ANDs and fewer ORs (NOT can be used to exclude some terms) you retrieve fewer records, yet the records will have all of the terms.

Example: KW=(Black English) AND KW=(education) NOT KW=(folklore)

[Add Row](#) | [Remove](#)

	(	black english	or		or		) Keywords, KW=	▼
and ▼	(	education	or		or		) Keywords, KW=	▼
not ▼	(	folklore	or		or		) Keywords, KW=	▼

[Search Tips:](#) e.g., wildcard*, exact phrase; use Keywords for a single search of Title, Abstract, Descriptors

Search

Clear

MLA Directory of Periodicals*

The *MLA Directory of Periodicals* produced by the Modern Language Association (MLA) contains information available on the journals and series that are covered in the MLA International Bibliography database. The Directory is a master list that aims to cover journals available to libraries or universities that publishes articles on language, literature, folklore, or pedagogy with some frequency, as well as any series that includes books on those subjects, regardless of the frequency of publication. This information is gathered by the MLA staff with the cooperation of MLA bibliographers and the editors represented in these listings.

Over 5,800 titles are included; of these, over 4,400 are currently indexed. The records consist of editorial addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers, e-mail addresses, frequency of publication, descriptions of the periodicals' scopes, circulation figures, subscription prices and addresses, advertising information, submission guidelines, and information on whether or not journals are peer reviewed. The directory also provides statistics on how many articles and book reviews the periodicals publish each year, as well as how many are submitted.

MLA Directory of Periodical does not have a thesaurus.

Field Codes

Field Code	Label	Search Example
Abstract	AB=	Description of the periodicals area of coverage AB=(<i>[text]</i>)
Accession Number	AN=	AN=(2005580185)
Descriptors	DE=	DE=(anthropological criticism)
Editorial Information	ET=	Sponsoring Organization, Editors, Address, Advertising and Rates: ET= (Modern Language Association)
ISSN	IS=	IS=(0002-7294)
Journal Abbreviation	JA=	JA=(PMLA)
Journal Name	JN=	JN=(Mosaic)
Keyword	KW=	KW=(philosophy)
Language	LA=	LA=(French)
Publisher	PB=	PB=(Multilingual Matters)
Peer Reviewed	PE=	PE=(no) or PE=(yes)
Publication Location	PL=	PL=(Clevedon, England)
Submission Information	SB=	Submission information: restrictions on contributions, charges, article size, book reviews, copyright, submission time frames, editorial style, blind submission, or copies required SB=(turabian)
Subscription Information	SI=	SI=(free)
Status	ST=	ST=(active) or ST=(inactive)
Update	UD=	YYYYMM or YYYYMMDD up=(197401) up=(20050210)

* Information gathered from the MLA International Bibliography website (<http://www.mla.org/bibliography>)