

SEARCHING THE MLA INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Define your topic.
2. Break your topic up into key concepts. Consider literary time period, genre, theme, &c.
3. List keywords for each concept. Identify as many synonyms and related, broader, and narrower terms as you can.
4. Search the *MLAIB* one concept at a time. Connect all the keywords for a given concept with the Boolean operator “OR.”
5. Finally, combine all the results with the Boolean operator “AND.”

I. TOPIC _____

II. NATIONAL LITERATURE (*e.g.* ENGLISH LITERATURE, AMERICAN LITERATURE, ITALIAN LITERATURE) _____

III. LITERARY TIME PERIOD

Century or Centuries (<i>e.g.</i> 1600–1699)	Keyword (<i>e.g.</i> Restoration)

IV. LITERARY AUTHOR(S)

Official names (include variant spellings for foreign authors)	Pseudonyms or popular names

V. GENRE (*e.g.* AUTOBIOGRAPHY, DRAMA, FICTION, NOVEL, POETRY, PROSE, SHORT STORY)

Genre (include broader and narrower terms)	Keywords (include synonyms)

The following categories of information are not consistently indexed by the *MLAIB*. Combine them with your other search results but also search without them too.

VI. TITLE(S) OF LITERARY WORK(S)

Titles (for non-English works, list the title in the original language and also include the English translation)	Variant titles

VII. CHARACTER(S)

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VIII. THEME OR MOTIF

Theme/Motif (include broader and narrower terms)	Synonyms

IX. LITERARY TECHNIQUE OR FEATURE

Literary Technique (include broader and narrower terms)	Synonyms

X. OTHER KEYWORDS

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