

Finding Book Reviews

How do I find a book review at Meyer Library? To find a book review you need:

1. The complete name of the author.
2. The exact title of the book.
3. The year the book was published. Make sure you have the original date of publication. You can check SWAN or Worldcat to verify the copyright information.
 - Next you need to consult a book review source (see below) for the year the book was published, or for the immediate following years. Note: Scholarly reviews can lag by a few years.
 - Copy down the *complete* citations to reviews of your book. If using a print index check the front of the index volume for the full name of the journal that has the review.
 - Go to the *Journal & Magazine Titles* link (TDNet journal tracker) on the library homepage to see if we own the journal, and where to find it in the library.

Selected Print Resources

- ◆ **Book Review Digest. 1905-1999** Ref. Z1219 .C96
Summary, and index of reviews in about 80 periodicals. To qualify for inclusion, works of non-fiction must have received two or more reviews and fiction four or more.
- ◆ **Book Review Index. 1965-2004** Ref. Z1035 .A1 B6
Author/title access to reviews in more than 450 publications representing a wide range of journals. The most comprehensive print source to find book reviews
- ◆ **Combined Retrospective Index to Book Reviews in Humanities Journals. 1802-1974**
Ref. Z1035 .A1 C58x
Selective indexing in humanities fields: language and literature, history, philosophy, arts, classics, travel, folklore, sports, and other pastimes.
- ◆ **Combined Retrospective Index to Book Reviews in Scholarly Journals. 1886-1974**
Ref. Z1035 .A1 C6x
Fifteen volumes; for this time period, most comprehensive index covering history, political science, sociology. Author/title access to more than two million scholarly book reviews from 459 journals.
- ◆ **Magill's Literary Annual. 1977-2004** Ref. PN44 .M34x
Essay reviews of 200 outstanding books published in the United States during the previous year. Titles indexed by category.
- ◆ **New York Times Book Review Index. 1896-1970** Ref. AP2 .N658
Indexes reviews in the New York Times. For results since 1970, consult the issues of the New York Times Index, Book reviews from 1994 on are listed at the end of "Books and Literature" heading. Prior to 1993 books are listed alphabetically by title under "Book Reviews."
- ◆ **Additional Print Sources:**
Reviews in a particular subject area can often be found in a periodical index for the field. Many include a book review section at the back of each volume indexed by the author of the book. Examples: Art Index, General Science Index, Humanities Index, Social Sciences & Humanities Index, etc.

Electronic Resources



Book reviews can be found in most of our online databases. Go to *Indexes & Databases* on the library homepage to bring up a listing of database indexes by title, or by subject. When searching a general, or subject index for a book review, remember the review will be indexed by the author of the review, not the author of the book. Likewise the title of the review may, or may not contain the actual title of the book, so search by keyword or default. Many of the databases will allow the user to limit results to just “book reviews.” To do this go to the *Advanced Search* screen and check *Document Type* for this option.

Book Review Digest Plus: This database *only* contains book reviews so you can search for reviews by author, title, or keyword. It contains some full text coverage, but for most reviews you will need to look for the journal in the TDNet journal tracker to retrieve the actual review.

Sample Search Result:

The screenshot shows the Wilson Web search interface. The search results are for the query "(kings midwife) <in> TI" in the Book Review Digest Plus database. Two records are displayed. Record 1 is for Gelbart, N.R. (1998) with a link to the full text in *American Scientist*. Record 2 is for Gelbart, N.R. (1998) with a list of links to various journals, including *The American Historical Review*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and *The Times Literary Supplement*. An arrow points to the link for *The American Historical Review*.

Sample Search in TDNet: Go to the library homepage to access TDNet.

The screenshot shows the Missouri State TDNet journal tracker interface. The page has a navigation bar with links for "About TDNet", "Search TDNet", "Terms Of Use", and "Home". Below the navigation bar is a table with columns for "Journal Title", "Online Coverage", "Print Coverage", and "Publisher". The "American Historical Review" is highlighted in the "Journal Title" column. A speech bubble points to the "American Historical Review" entry with the text "Click on any of these indexes to locate the full text of the review." Another speech bubble points to the "Online Coverage" column for the "American Historical Review" with the text "Click here to access the periodical in SWAN catalog".

If you need additional assistance, please contact a reference librarian.

Meyer Library Reference & Government Information Department | 836-4535

<http://library.missouristate.edu>

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