



Finding Book Reviews



How Do I Find Information on Books?

To find a critical review of a book, either to get a "second opinion" or to refresh your memory of a book you have read, there are several sources in the library you can use to locate reviews that have appeared in newspapers and journals. All of the print sources are located in the Index/Abstract section behind the Reference Desk. If you have difficulty locating or using these sources, or if you fail to turn up a review, be sure to ask a reference librarian for help.

Comprehensive Guides to Book Reviews

Book Review Digest, 1905-

Index/Abstract Z 1219.C96

Published monthly, with quarterly and annual cumulations, indexes and digests English language reviews in about eighty newspapers and journals. Gives source and length of full review. Citations arranged alphabetically by author, with title and subject indexes. There are two cumulated indexes: 1905-1974, and 1975-1984.

Book Review Index, 1965-

Index/Abstract Z 1035 .A1 B6

Quarterly, with annual cumulations. Indexes several hundred more sources than the *Book Review Digest*, but includes only source information, no abstracts. Alphabetical by author, with title (only) index. Covers many more professional and scholarly journals.

Combined Retrospective Index To Book Reviews In Scholarly Journals, 1886-1974

Index/Abstract Z 1035 .A1 C64

Covers over 450 scholarly journals in history, political science, and sociology. Access is by author and title.

Periodical Indexes with Book Reviews

Humanities Index, 1974-1983

Index/Abstract AI 3 .H86

Covers journals in history, language and literature, performing arts, philosophy, religion and theology, archaeology and classical studies. Book reviews are listed at the end of each annual volume.

Social Sciences Index, 1974-1984

Index/Abstract HM1 .S6

Covers over 550 journals in anthropology, economics, environmental sciences, geography, law and criminology, public administration, political science, psychology and sociology. The book review section is at the end of each annual volume.

Specialized Indexes

Art Index, 1929— current (Reviews only from 1973 on)

Index/Abstract N 1 .A6

Indexes journals in all art areas. Index to book reviews in the back of each volume.

Education Index, 1929-2004 (Reviews only from 1975 on)

Index/Abstract L 11 .E23

Indexes about 400 journals. Index to book reviews in back of each volume.

[America: History and Life](#), 1969-

Research Databases on Library Home Page

America: History & Life has a "Document type—Book Review" you can use.

[ATLA Religion Database](#), 1949-

Research Databases on Library Home Page

Over 650 journals covered. Searchable by author, by title, and by reviewers' names.

[Catholic Periodical Index](#), 1930-

Index/Abstract BX 841.2 .C3

Look under "Book Reviews" in the main section up to 1992. After that, look in the Book Reviews section in the back of each volume. Listed by author only.

[Wilson Web General Science](#), 1984-

Research Databases on Library Home Page

An index to science journals targeted towards for students and non-specialists. Under document type, select "Book Reviews."

Online Databases with Book Reviews

[JSTOR](#)

Research Databases on Library Home Page

Its great strength is that all the journals are scholarly, and some go back over 100 years. At the bottom of the search page, be sure to uncheck "Articles" and check "Reviews." Then do a full-text search on the author's name on the top line, and the book title on the second line.

[Lexis-Nexis](#), 1976-

Research Databases on Library Home Page

Very comprehensive coverage of reviews appearing in newspapers, also includes journal and magazines. Next to "General", click the "News" tab, then in the "Sources" popup change it to "Book, Movie, Music, Play and Video Reviews." Then type the author's name and the book title in the top two boxes and change. Be sure to change the date to include the year when the book was published, plus the two following years.

[Project MUSE](#)

Research Databases on Library Home Page

Provides access to 200 scholarly journals, many of which contain book review sections. The content goes back only to the mid-1990s. Enter the author and title in the two search boxes, then check "Reviews Only" in the "Additional Search Options" section.

[ProQuest](#)

Research Databases on Library Home Page

Indexes thousands of newspapers and journals, both popular and scholarly. Enter the book author's name and the title of the book in the first two boxes, then on the third line change the "Citation and Abstract" dropdown to "Document type" and enter "Book review."

[WilsonWeb](#)

Research Databases on Library Home Page

Excellent for popular and scholarly journal reviews, but only from the mid-1980s. Be sure all the databases are checked. Type the book title on the first line, the author's name on the second line, then change the dropdown on the third line to "Document Type" and enter "Book review."

Newspaper Index Listing Book Reviews

[New York Times Index](#), 1927-1999

Index/Abstract AI 21. N45

In the annual volumes, look under "Book Reviews," and then under the book title. The library has the *Index* in paper (1927-1999) and the *Times* on microfilm. Both began in 1851. We also have the *Times* in electronic form from 1851-2006 via ProQuest Historical Newspapers and from 2006 forward in ProQuest.