Information Competence for English and American Studies

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2) Information sources for English and American Studies available at Bonn University

3) Research techniques and strategies

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1. Research process

The Big 6 Skills (I)

1. Task Definition
    1.1 Define the information problem
    1.2 Identify information needed

2. Information Seeking Strategies
    2.1 Determine all possible sources
    2.2 Select the best sources

3. Location and Access
    3.1 Locate sources (intellectually and physically)
    3.2 Find information within sources

Big 6 Skills (II)

4. Use of Information

    4.1 Engage (e.g., read, hear, view, touch)

    4.2 Extract relevant information

5. Synthesis

    5.1 Organize from multiple sources

    5.2 Present the information

6. Evaluation

    6.1 Judge the product (effectiveness)

    6.2 Judge the process (efficiency)

* The big 6 Skills developed by educators Mike Eisenberg and Bob Berkowitz

2. Information sources for English and American Studies at Bonn University

2.1. Bonn University Library

- [Access by Subject](#) (*Facheinstieg*) : General information about different information sources for individual subjects

- Bibliographic search (*Literaturrecherche*)

  - Main catalogue (*Hauptkatalog*)

  - Databases (*Datenbanken*)

  - E-journals (*elektronische Fachzeitschriften*)

  - E-Books (*Booksammlungen*)

  - Meta search engine NRW (*DigiBib-Suchportal*)

2.2. Databases for Primary Sources

- Primary Sources = Orginal documents (e.g. autobiographies, diaries, e-mail, interviews, letters, speeches) or creative works (drama, novels, poetry etc.)

- Full text databases (*Volltextdatenbank*)

  Examples of important collections:

- Early English Books Online (EEBO)

- Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)

- English Language Women's Literature of the 18th & 19th centuries

2.3. Bibliographies for English Studies

- Secondary sources of information (*Fachbibliographie*) = Literature about the original documents or creative works

- [MLA](#) International Bibliography

- Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature [(ABELL)](#)

- For medieval studies:

  International Medieval Bibliography ([IMB](#))

3. Research techniques and strategies

3.1. Free text search

- Often the default setting

- Searches all available fields of the bibliographic record

- Search category: any word, all fields, keyword (*Alle Felder, Freie Suche, Freitextsuche*)

- Advantage: a very comprehensive search → largest possible number of results

- Disadvantage: very unspecific → possibly a lot of irrelevant/unwanted results

Search by Title – Definition

- Searching with the meaningful words from the title of a book or an article

- Search category: Title, Search in Title, Title keyword(s) (*Titelwort, Titelstichwort, Titel, Titel Stichwörter, Stichwort*)

  Unspecific words (e.g. Articles, prepositions, pronouns) are not indexed, therefore irrelevant for search

For example:

A companion to Victorian literature & culture

Phrase search

- Searching for a number of words in an exact order

- Makes searching for very common words with the help of a context easier (e.g. history, fiction, literature)

- Search category: Find … this exact wording or phrase (Google Advanced Search), Phrase search (*Titelanfang, Exakter Titel, Phrasensuche* ... **)**

- More often done by using quotation marks, e.g. „Victorian England"

An example from the main catalogue:

Crime fiction   Title search: 38 hits

                      Exact title: 3 hits

Searching by subject (terms)

- Index term, subject term, subject heading, descriptor etc. =
  Pre-defined "controlled vocabulary" words assigned to describe the content of each item in a database or catalogue

- Database looks for searched words only in the index of subject terms, where the most relevant words appear

Advantages and disadvantages of subject terms serch

Advantages

- the results are really about your topic and once you know the subject term, everything about your specific topic should be listed under the same subject term

Disadvantages:

- The words used as subjects are often not what you would expect and you have to learn the "individual language" of a database

- Are general in nature and cannot address the contents of individual sections of a work, such as collected essays in a book
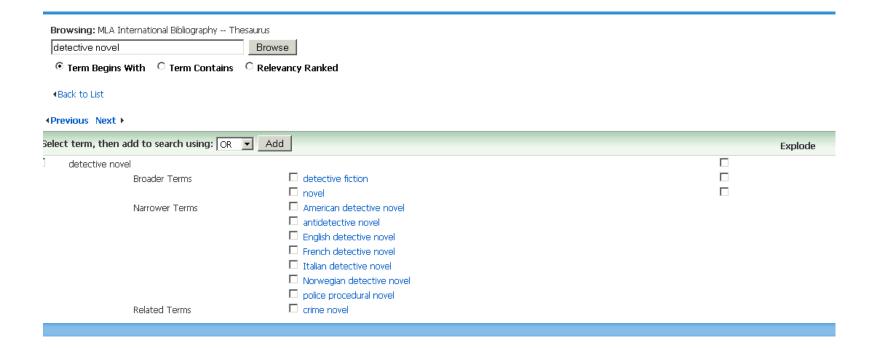
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Thesaurus

- Thesaurus = controlled vocabulary in which concepts are represented by preferred terms, formally organized so that relationships (e.g. Narrower Term/Broader Term) between the concepts are made explicit, and the preferred terms are accompanied by entries for synonyms or quasi-synonyms

- In Germany *Schlagwortnormdatei (SWD)* is used for subject indexing in the university libraries as well as the German National Library (DNB)

- Good databases have their own thesauri

3.2. Subject terms for English and American Studies

- **■** MLA Thesaurus structure:

Subject heading	The term or name chosen to describe the contents of the document
Used for	Alternative (nonpreferred) terms or names, which include synonyms, variant spellings, and older versions of the heading
Broader subject headings	More general terms or concepts
Related subject headings	Related terms or concepts
Narrower subject headings	More specific terms or concepts

MLA thesaurus example

Browsing: MLA International Bibliography -- Thesaurus

| detective novel | Browse |

⊙ **Term Begins With**   ○ **Term Contains**   ○ **Relevancy Ranked**

◂Back to List

◂**Previous Next** ▸

Select term, then add to search using: OR ▾ Add	Explode
detective novel	☐
Broader Terms ☐ detective fiction	☐
☐ novel	☐
Narrower Terms ☐ American detective novel	
☐ antidetective novel	
☐ English detective novel	
☐ French detective novel	
☐ Italian detective novel	
☐ Norwegian detective novel	
☐ police procedural novel	
Related Terms ☐ crime novel	

Truncation (or wildcard)

Truncation assists in creating searches with unknown characters and multiple spellings

Sometimes the term wildcard is used for replacing a single character

The <u>most common</u> symbol used for truncation is * (but this may vary from database to database)

- Truncation at the end of the word:
  psych* finds words beginning with the word stem „psych- i.e. "psychology, psychological, psycholinguistics, psychiatry, psychiatrist…

- Truncation in the middle of the word:
  wom?n finds woman, women

- Truncation at the beginning of the word
  ***linguistics** finds textlinguistics, pyscholinguistics, neurolinguistics ….

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Logical operators

AND: To retrieve records, where both of search terms are necessary (to narrow your search → to get fewer results)

OR: To retrieve records, where both search terms are possible (to widen your search → to get more results)

(AND) NOT: To exclude records with a certain term from your results

For example:

                mother **AND** children

                mother **OR** children

                parent **AND NOT** father

How to develop search strategies

- Analyse the components of your topic and find the appropriate search terms for these

The female sleuth in English Literature		
Component 1:	Component 2:	Component 3:
Crime novel	Wom?n	English Literature
Detective fiction	Female	Great Britain & Literature
Police novel		

3.3. Evaluating your results

A search is always a balancing act between finding too much or too little.

Relevance =
$$\frac{\text{Number of relevant retrieved documents}}{\text{Number of retrieved documents}}$$

Recall =
$$\frac{\text{Number of relevant retrieved documents}}{\text{Number of relevant documents in the database}}$$

Relevance and Recall

Database

| relevant but not found | relevant and found | Not relevant but found |

- If all the your results are relevant, there are probably further relevant titels in the database

- The more complete your search, the more irrelevant results are included in your result list

3.4. Too many or too few results

1) Too few results

- **Check for source of errors**:
    - Spelling mistakes
    - Too „neat" a truncation, too many logical operators, incorrect search logic
    - Truncation not at all possible

- **To expand your search methods and search instruments**:
    - Use all the possibilities of a the topical search
    - Find broader/related terms in the keyword/subject index
    - Consult further bibliographies

- **Screen your result list for relevant items**
    Adopt applicable kewords or subject terms

Too few results: Improve your search strategy

If you get too few results, you can further incorporate the following elements to your search:

- Synonyms, technical terms

- Multilingual terms

- Plurals or adjectives

- Different spellings

- Broader, narrower and related terms

Too many results

- **Screen your results for relevent items** :
  Are there keyword or subject terms that describe your topic better than the search terms you used?

    → Use a subject/keyword term search instead

- **Screen your results for irrelevent items**:

    Are there terms included, that do not match your topic?

    Use NOT-operator to eliminate unwanted terms (but remember that you could be getting rid of many relevant items as well)

- Redefine your topic by narrowing it

- Add a another search term by using AND

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3.5. Metasearch

- The possibility to search several databases simultaneously

- Digibib:
  you are able to search databases, e-books, e-journals and other contents available in NRW simultaneously

  - Standard search

  - Searching according to your field of study

Digibib search interface

KVK – Karlsruhe Virtual Catalog

- The possibility to search simultaneously several library catalogues in Germany and/or abroad

- New: the possibility of including electronic journals and books

- Available at http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk.html

KVK search interface

4. Availability

Availability

- 4.1. The main catalogue (Hauptkatalog)

  - Books, E-Books

- 4.2. ZDB & EZB

  - Articles

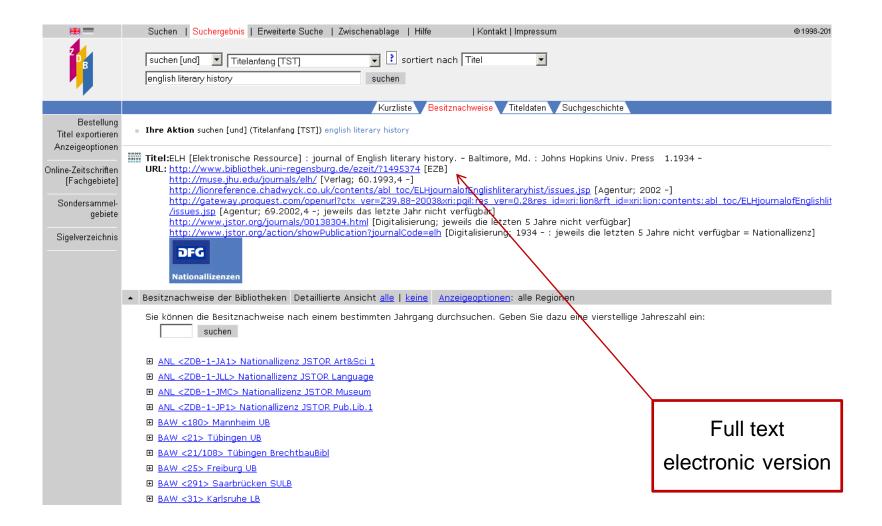- 4.3. Link resolver

- 4.4. Interlibrary loan

4.1. The main catalogue

Availability of library holdings

4.2 ZDB result list

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ZDB link to the electronic journals

ZDB links directly into EZB

EZB search interface

Only title of journal is searchable.

NOT single articles

EZB result list

EZB single result

008. ▭▭▮ Shakespeare Matters ➕ *merken* 🖨 *drucken* ⬇ *exportieren*

009. ▭▮▭ Shakespeare Quarterly (2001-) ➕ *merken* 🖨 *drucken* ⬇ *exportieren*

Lizenzierter Zeitraum: **gesamter Zeitraum** ▭▮▭ [Zugangsbedingungen] ➕ WEITERSAGEN

Titel:	Shakespeare Quarterly (2001-)
Fachgruppe(n):	Anglistik. Amerikanistik
Schlagwörter:	Englische Literaturgeschichte
Homepage(s):	http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/shakespeare_quarterly/
	http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/shq/
	http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/shakespeare_quarterly/index.html
Inhalte:	News-Feed: Neueste Artikel
Verlag:	Folger Shakespeare Library im Project MUSE
Erscheinungsweise:	Volltext, Online und Druckausgabe
Volltext online seit:	Jg. 52, H. 1 (2001)
Kosten:	kostenpflichtig
ISSN (Onlineausgabe):	1538-3555
ISSN (Druckausgabe):	0037-3222
ZDB-Nummer:	2009679-3
Bemerkung(en):	Ältere Jahrgänge über JSTOR.
Auch gedruckt vorhanden:	Bonn ULB: Signatur: Z 4' 67/133, Bestand: 1.1950 -
	Bonn ULB: Signatur: Z 4' 67/133, Bestand: 1/15.1950/64(1969)
	Bonn Anglistik: Signatur: B 500, Bestand: 1.1950 -
	Bonn Anglistik: Signatur: B 500, Bestand: 1/15.1950/64(1969)

EZB link to the full texts

Shakespeare Quarterly

Volume 61, Number 4, Winter 2010
E-ISSN: 1538-3555 Print ISSN: 0037-3222

PUBLISHER:

▸ The Johns Hopkins University Press

JOURNAL COVERAGE:
Vol. 52 (2001) through current issue

ABOUT THE JOURNAL:
Founded in 1950 by the Shakespeare Association of America, *Shakespeare Quarterly* is a refereed journal committed to publishing articles in the vanguard of Shakespeare studies. As of 19 April 2010, submissions are double blinded. The *Quarterly*, produced by Folger Shakespeare Library in association with George Washington University, features notes that bring to light new information on Shakespeare and his age, issue and exchange sections for the latest ideas and controversies, theater reviews of significant Shakespeare productions, and book reviews to keep its readers current with Shakespeare criticism and scholarship.
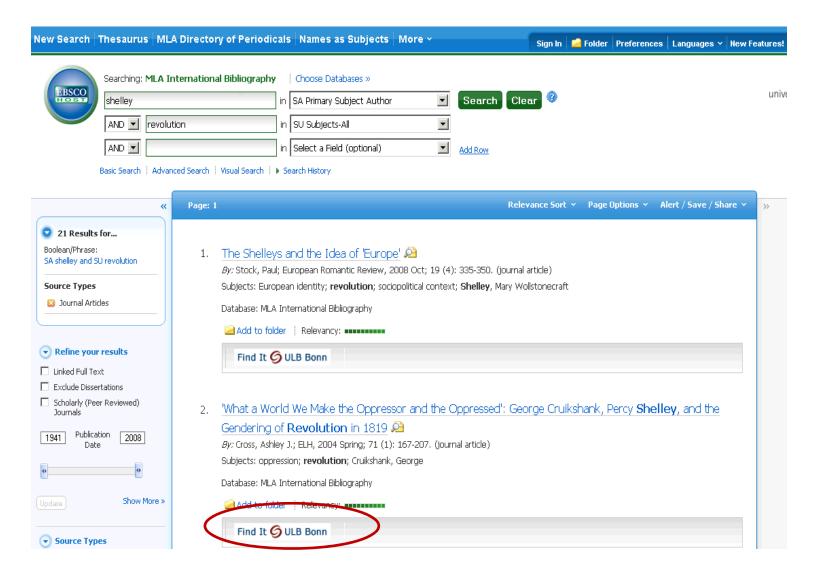
CURRENT ISSUE:
▸ Volume 61, Number 4, Winter 2010

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▸ Volume 61, Number 4, Winter 2010
▸ Volume 61, Number 3, Fall 2010
▸ Volume 61, Number 2, Summer 2010
▸ Volume 61, Number 1, Spring 2010

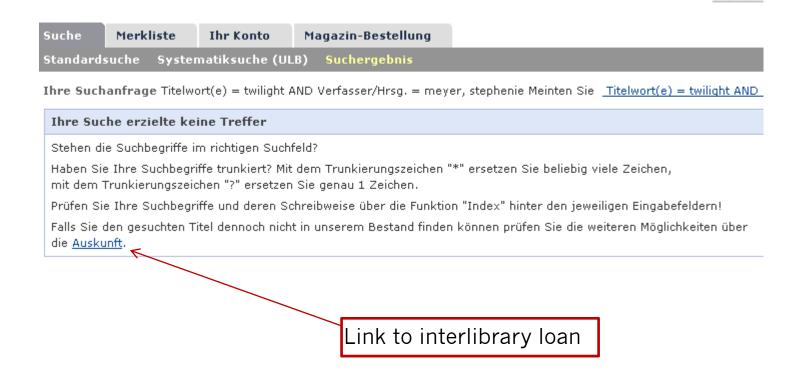▸ Volume 60, Number 4, Winter 2009

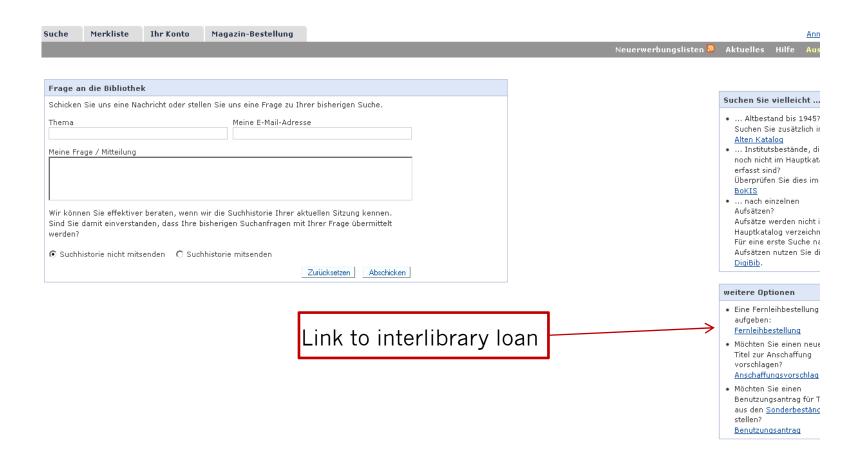Frequently Downloaded Articles

4.3. Link resolver

Following the link resolver

4.4. Catalogue search without result

Suche | **Merkliste** | **Ihr Konto** | **Magazin-Bestellung**

Standardsuche **Systematiksuche (ULB)** **Suchergebnis**

Ihre Suchanfrage Titelwort(e) = twilight AND Verfasser/Hrsg. = meyer, stephenie Meinten Sie Titelwort(e) = twilight AND

Ihre Suche erzielte keine Treffer

Stehen die Suchbegriffe im richtigen Suchfeld?

Haben Sie Ihre Suchbegriffe trunkiert? Mit dem Trunkierungszeichen "*" ersetzen Sie beliebig viele Zeichen, mit dem Trunkierungszeichen "?" ersetzen Sie genau 1 Zeichen.

Prüfen Sie Ihre Suchbegriffe und deren Schreibweise über die Funktion "Index" hinter den jeweiligen Eingabefeldern!

Falls Sie den gesuchten Titel dennoch nicht in unserem Bestand finden können prüfen Sie die weiteren Möglichkeiten über die Auskunft.

Link to interlibrary loan

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Link to interlibrary loan

Link to interlibrary loan

Service interface for interlibrary loan

5. Evaluating information resources

5.1. Academic quality of publications

- Academic quality of <u>printed publications</u>:

    - Target group of the publication

    - Academic apparatus (e.g. footnotes, bibliography) present?

    - Is the informationup-to-date?

    - Renowned author, institution or journal

Academic quality of websites

- Author or anonymous? What information is avaibable in website credits (mostly under the heading „About")

- Website operator: Commercial or academic institution?
  (It might be possible to draw conclusions from the IP address)

- Academic level of information, up-dating?

- Where do the links lead?

- Adequate style of writing

- Clear layout? Are multimedial-elements functionally appropriate?

Deep Web

- Definition: The amount of information, that cannot be found by using search engines

- Invisible net is several times bigger than the visible web

- Database contents (e.g. Library catalogues and databases) as well as other lincensed contents that are not freely available on the Internet

→ Search engines for academic search purposes have only a very limited use

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5.2. The „Google Problem"

- **Advantages** for academic search purposes:

  Google analyses the table of contents, whereas the Bonn main catalogue does not

  → finds relevant titles not indexed in a database

- **Disadvantage** for searching literature:

  - The results contain a lot of non-literature information

  - Rudimentary or incorrent bibliographical information that often complicate the localisation of the title in a library

Conclusion: A good tool for additional searches, but not as the startimg point or main instrument

Google - Example

Google

toni morrison beloved   Search

About 1,440,000 results (0.14 seconds)   Advanced search

Everything
Images
Videos
News
Shopping
Books
More

Bonn
Change location

All results
Sites with images
Wonder wheel
Timeline
More text

More search tools

Toni Morrison: Beloved
21 May 1997 ... **Beloved**, **Toni Morrison's** Nobel Prize winning Novel about the Effects of Slavery. Includes reviews, essays, articles, study resources.
www.luminarium.org/.../**tonimorrison**/**beloved**.htm - Cached - Similar

Beloved (novel) - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
Beloved (1987) is a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Toni Morrison. .... "The Bonds of Love and the Boundaries of Self in **Toni Morrison's Beloved**. ...
Plot summary - Major themes - Film adaptation - Legacy
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/**Beloved**_(novel) - Cached - Similar

Toni Morrison - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
In 1987 Morrison's novel **Beloved** became a critical success. When the novel ...
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/**Toni_Morrison** - Cached - Similar

➕ Show more results from wikipedia.org

Beloved by Toni Morrison - A Homework Online Study Guide :: Welcome!
Includes plot summary/explanation, character analysis, themes, quotes, forum.
www.homework-online.com/**beloved**/index.asp - Cached - Similar

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Amazon.com: Beloved (9780452280625): Toni Morrison: Books
Toni Morrison's Beloved: A Casebook (Casebooks in Criticism) · **Toni Morrison's Beloved** by Nellie Y. ... **Toni Morrison**: **Beloved** (Columbia Critical Guides) ...
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Google - Results

- Information about the author, interviews

- Information/Table of contents about the book

- Reviews

- Help for home work (abstract, analysis)

- Possibility to order from an Online-bookshop

→Lack of bibliographical information!

Preferably use Google Scholar …

- An academic search engine for all the academic disciplines

- Offers source and full texts as well as bibliographical information from library catalogues

- Less inaccurate results than Google

- „Related articles" = trying to find similar results → not always comprehensible

- Partially „Check@ULB Bonn": Possibility to search the concrete collections of Bonn university library, but the results not always reliable

- Sometimes links to the full text

Google Scholar – Example

Google scholar | toni morrison reloved | Search   Advanced Scholar Search

Scholar | Articles and patents ▼ | | anytime ▼ | | include citations ▼ | ✉ Create email alert   Results **1 - 10** of about **12,500**. (0

Did you mean: toni morrison **beloved**

[PDF] The Seams Can't Show: An Interview with **Toni Morrison**   [PDF] from jstor.org
J Bakerman - Black American Literature Forum, 1978 - JSTOR   Fulltext@ULB Bonn
... I was never able to **resolve** that, so I used both. ... As she has hoped to do, she does "**remove** the
cataracts" to show us, the people, the power we have-for evil ... The reason they do lies in **Toni**
Morrison's willingness to explore the limits of emotion and then to think long and deeply ...
Cited by 49 - Related articles - All 2 versions

Singing the blues/reclaiming jazz: **Toni Morrison** and cultural mourning
R Rubenstein - Journal article by Roberta Rubenstein; Mosaic (..., 1998 - questia.com
... to mourning rituals and other structures that enable the process of grieving to **resolve**. ... Mourning
names the process through which losses might be grieved and resolved: both the ... Naming and
embodying that grief, **Toni Morrison** expresses the responsibility that she feels for "all ...
Cited by 16 - Related articles - BL Direct - All 2 versions

[BOOK] beloved communities: Solidarity and difference in fiction by Michael Ondaatje, **Toni Morrison**,
and Joy Kogawa
E Kella - 2000 - diva-portal.org
... Title: beloved communities: Solidarity and difference in fiction by Michael Ondaatje, **Toni Morrison**,
and Joy Kogawa. Department: Uppsala University, Humanistisk ... 0562-2719; 110. Year of publ.:
2000. URI: urn:nbn:se:uu:diva-1064. Permanent link: http://urn.kb.se/**resolve**?urn=urn ...
Cited by 17 - Related articles - Cached - Check@ULB Bonn - Library Search - All 4 versions

[CITATION] Giving Body to the Word: The Maternal Symbolic in **Toni Morrison's** Beloved
J Wyatt - Critical Essays on **Toni Morrison's**" Beloved
Cited by 6 - Related articles - All 2 versions

[PDF] The Ancestor as Foundation in Their Eyes Were Watching God and Tar Baby   [PDF] from jstor.org
SP Paquet - Callaloo, 1990 - JSTOR
... Nanny wants to **remove** the element of risk and chance from Janie's life and, with this ... But sexual
jealousy also surfaces with Tea Cake, and here it is less easily resolved. ... In **Toni Morrison's** Tar
Baby, an ancestral relationship with folk culture is lost to Jadine Childs through the ...
Cited by 22 - Related articles - Check@ULB Bonn - All 3 versions

Google's weaknesses compared to information provided by a library

- Provides no or incomplete bibliographical information

- Does not distinquish between primary and secondary literature

- No sorting of the results possible, e.g. according to the year of publication

- Does not offer a topical search (no subject terms/ classification) or other specific search fields

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5. 3. Portals (Fachportale)

- ViFa Anglo-American culture

- Cultural studies (Kulturwissenschaft)

- Medieval studies (Mediävistik)

ViFa – Anglo-American Culture

- http://www.sub.uni-goettingen.de/vlib/lit/

- Responsible institution: Niedersächsischen Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen

- Sponsored by the German Research Foundation (die Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft)

- Access to information and services regardless of the physical form of the information source

- The most comprehensive academic collection of links in the field of English and American Studies

Medieval studies (Mediävistik)

- Interdisciplinary portal at www.mediaevum.de

- Free access on the Internet

- Contains e.g. a link collection to the digitized manuscripts and eletronic editions of medieval literature
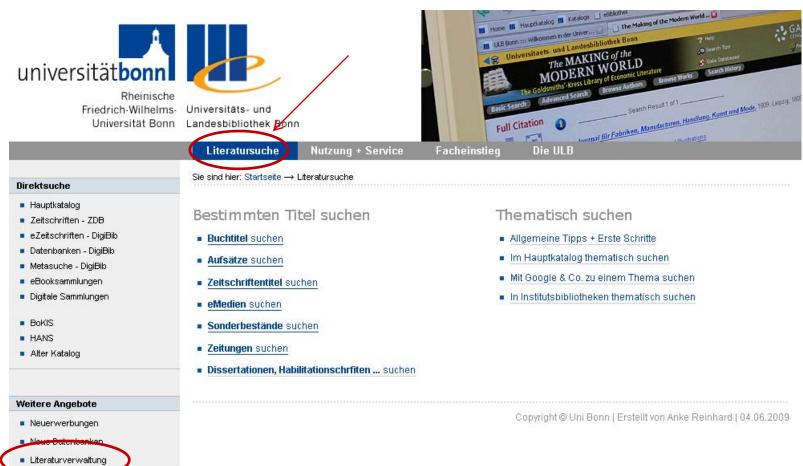
Cultural sciences (Kulturwissenschaft)

- www.hsozkult.de

- Editor: Humboldt-University Berlin

- Part of the virtual library of history (die Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Geschichte) at www.clio-online.de

- Interesting topics include e.g.
  Cultural anthropology
  Gender Studies
  Colonialism
  Jewish history
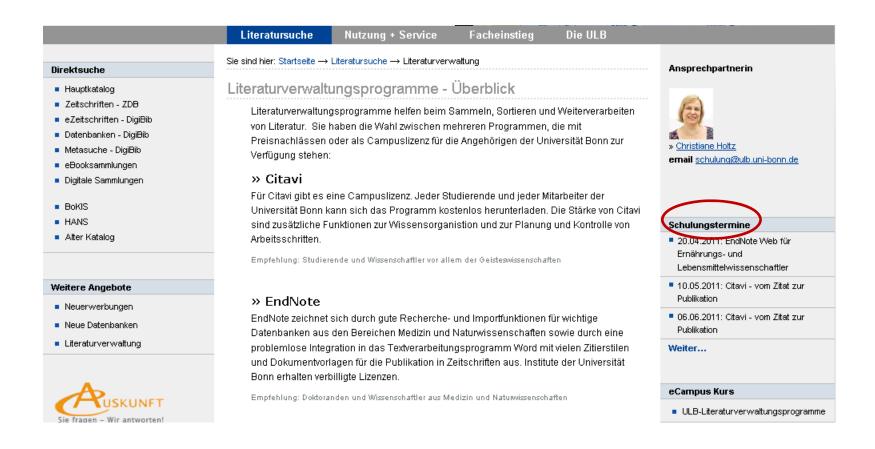 Historic educational research
  Media history

6. Processing bibliographical information

6. Further processing for your bibliographic information

Citavi and Endnote:
campus licence and instruction

Contact the subject librarian

Dr. Alice Rabeler

Universitätsbibliothek

Adenauerallee 39-41

Büro R. 0.013

Tel. 0228/ 73-7357

Fax 0228/ 73-7546

Email: alice.rabeler@ulb.uni-bonn.de

I will gladly help you with your literature search!