

Book Reviews

Goal: Students will understand the importance of book reviews in scholarly research and learn how to locate reviews.

Outcomes:

- Students will identify four key characteristics a book in order to determine what resources might contain reviews of the title.
- Students will search two databases of their choosing in order to identify and locate one or more reviews of their book from each database.
- *Optional:* Students will locate four reviews and analyze two of them in order to demonstrate their ability to articulate the differences between reviews.

Materials/Prep:

Instruction room with computers.

Students should have picked a title to research.

Time Required: 30-40 minutes

Lesson:

- Briefly discuss the take home assignment (if used) and the reasons why book reviews are useful resources in the context of this class.
2-5 minutes
- Discuss various resources for locating book reviews, and how to choose between them when initiating a search.
10 minutes
- Demonstrate the search process by locating a review from an appropriate database.
3-5 minutes
- **Action:** Ask students to fill out a worksheet answering some basic questions about their title (subject matter, language, country of publication and publication date) explaining that this could help determine which databases/resources would contain reviews of it
5 minutes
- **Action:** Have students search two databases of their own choosing and determine if there are any reviews of their title. If there are, they should email themselves the citation(s), or the full text if available.
10-15 minutes
- **Assessment:** At the end of class, students will list any points from the lesson that are still unclear and they will also record what they have learned from the lesson.