

Finding Book Reviews

Several sources will help you find book reviews, either for specific books or to stay abreast of newly-published books. To find a review of a specific book, it helps to know **a)** the year the book was published or reissued, and **b)** the book's subject or audience (i.e., is it fiction, nonfiction, written for the general public, for children, etc.). Knowing the date and subject (or audience) will help determine which resources to use.

Online sources for book reviews (available through Thompson Library's homepage by choosing "Reference" from the "Please select a subject" drop down menu):

- *Book Review Digest* (a FirstSearch database) lists citations to reviews of fiction and nonfiction books for adults and children published from 1983 to the present.
- *Book Review Index* (an InfoTrac database) lists more than five million review citations from thousands of publications.
- *Book Index with Reviews* (contains book reviews, many of them short, for many of the books indexed).
- *Books In Print* contains some mostly short book reviews, and citations for additional reviews. A star icon in the left margin of a results list indicates that reviews are available for a book.

Online periodical indexes like *ProQuest Research Library* and *InfoTrac Academic ASAP*, etc. often contain book reviews; find them by searching for the title or subject of the book AND the term "book review" or "book reviews." Online indexes usually cover the last 5 - 15 years of publication.

For older reviews, consult one of the following indexes located on the third floor index tables, behind the reference desk:

- *Book Review Index* (1965-present)
- *Book Review Digest* (1905-1997)

(continued on back)

- *National Library Service Cumulative Book Review Index, 1905 - 1974*
- *New York Times Book Review Index, 1896 - 1970*
- *Combined Retrospective Index to Book Reviews in Scholarly Journals, 1886 - 1974*
- *Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Review Index, 1923 - 1984*
- *An Index to Book Reviews in the Humanities, 1960 - 1990*
- *Contemporary Literary Criticism* (in the Reference Collection at Z 1224 .C62) contains excerpts from fiction reviews and works of criticism. Please inquire at the reference desk (762-3408) for further assistance.

Some titles to browse

If you just want to keep up with what is being published, there are some good sources in the Thompson Library.

TITLE	SUBJECT MATTER	LOCATION
<i>Black Issues Book Review</i>	General fiction & nonfiction	Periodicals
<i>Book Links</i>	Children's literature	Periodicals
<i>Chronicles</i>	General fiction & nonfiction	Periodicals
<i>Magill's Literary Annual</i>	General fiction & nonfiction	Reference PN 44 .M32
<i>New York Review of Books</i>	General fiction & nonfiction	Periodicals
<i>New York Times Book Review</i>	General fiction & nonfiction	Periodicals
<i>The American Book Review</i>	American literature	Periodicals
<i>TLS, the Times Literary Supplement</i>	General fiction & nonfiction	Periodicals
<i>World Literature Today</i>	World fiction	Periodicals

Some sources to avoid or use with caution

You may find book reviews in these specialized periodicals aimed at librarians and booksellers:

- *CHOICE*
- *Booklist*
- *Publishers Weekly*
- *Library Journal*

These reviews are usually very short (less than 250 words) and are not suitable for most student assignments. Although you may find them useful for keeping abreast of forthcoming books, please consult your instructor before using these sources.

Remember: Finding book reviews can be a complex process. Always feel free to ask for help whenever you need it!