

UQL Cyberschool Subject Guide: Literary Theory

Getting started

What information are you seeking? Write down key words from your assignment topic to use in your search. Make a list of keywords and synonyms you will be able to use as search terms.

Keywords	Synonyms

Now start your search for information.

Reference

If you are not sure what your topic is all about, look it up in a dictionary or encyclopedia. Start with definitions, maps, timelines or biographical snapshots, to put your topic into perspective.

Title	Location	Call Number
Critical survey of literary theory	PN45 .C74 1987	SSAH
The Penguin dictionary of literary terms and literary theory	PN41 .C83 1999	SSAH
Cambridge guide to fiction in English	PR821 .O97 1998	SSAH
Encyclopedia of world literature in the 20th century	PN774. L433 1981- V.1-V.5	SSAH Ref

Books

Books are a good starting point and may provide a lot of the information you need. Use the **Keyword** search option in the Library catalogue. You can search on words like **feminis* literature, queer theory literature, psychoanaly* literature, marx* literature, post structural* literature, literature history criticism and ecocriticism** Tips: use a question mark (?) in a word to expand your search e.g. Wom?n will find results for both women and woman; use an asterisk (*) at the end of a word to expand your search e.g. marx* will find results for Marx, Marxist, Marxism. Try the **subject** search for subjects such as. You can also browse the catalogue using **subject keywords** to find **SUBJECT HEADINGS**, such as **Phenomenology and literature, Gender identity in literature, Queer Theory, Feminism and literature, Communism and literature, Postmodernism** or browse the shelves.

Now add resources you have found, using the Keywords you listed for your topic.

Title	Location	Call Number

Journals

For recent information, journal articles are often the best sources. Looking through journals in the hope of finding relevant material is time consuming. It is better to use full text databases to find articles on your topic. If your school subscribes to databases through UQL Cyberschool, you can access them at school (or home) through your Library network. See your Teacher Librarian for details and passwords.

JSTOR	JSTOR is a multidisciplinary archive of high resolution scanned scholarly journals. It is not a current issues database. Because of JSTOR's archival mission, there is a gap, from 1 to 5 years, between the most recently published journal issue and the back issues available. Subject areas covered include economics, law, history, Asian studies, Middle Eastern studies, language, literature, music, film studies, performing arts, religion and visual arts.
Humanities & Social Sciences Collection (Informit)	Covers agriculture, arts, Asian studies, business, cultural studies, education, history, indigenous studies, law, media, political science, reference, social sciences, science and technology. Content sources include peer reviewed journals, monographs and books, conference proceedings, research papers and reference materials.

Refer to the **Keywords** you listed previously to use as initial search terms. For example, to find information about specific features of **literary theory** you could search **JSTOR**, limiting the search to articles with full text, using the phrase such as "**Marxist theory literature**" in a Keyword search.

Some of the databases available to schools **for free** through your local Council Library or the State Library of Queensland are found at <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/find/articles>

Internet resources

To find specific information on the Internet relevant to your assignment search, use the right search tools.

UQL Cyberschool Internet Sites Database – contains selected for use in your assignments. It is searchable by keyword and by your school subject e.g. Ancient History.	http://cyberschool.library.uq.edu.au/index.phtml
A range of Internet Search Tools will help you to locate required information	http://www.library.uq.edu.au/how-to-guides/internet-web-searching

Other resources

For some topics you will need to consult specialist information sources.

Quick Reference Collection An online reference collection providing quick links to Government sites, statistics, biographies, facts, figures, definitions and dates	http://www.library.uq.edu.au/quickref/index.html
News How to Guide Media releases, the latest news and some freely available archive material.	http://www.library.uq.edu.au/how-to-guides/news-and-newspapers
UQ Library Subject Guides Get started – find books, journal articles, using databases, relevant Internet resources and specialised information in your subject area or handy hints on a specific topic.	http://www.library.uq.edu.au/findit/index.html



UQL Cyberschool web page www.library.uq.edu.au

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