

# How to Find a Film Review

Film reviews are important sources of information on the quality of motion picture production and performance. Soon after the release of a film, reviews appear in newspapers and periodicals. This guide describes a variety of materials in the Reference Room that will help you locate film reviews.

In order to find a review in a periodical or newspaper index it is important to know the year the film was released. One source for this information is:

*International Motion Picture Almanac*. New York: Quigley 1931-. Annual. A section of this lists films in alphabetical order indicating the year they were released. For a more extensive list see *Magill's Survey of Cinema* covering English and Foreign Language Films and Silent Movies (791.4375 M1943, M1942, M1944 and M194)

**792.05 I61 Desk**

## INDEXES AND ABSTRACTS

The indexes listed here provide references to both historical and current film reviews and can be found on the library computer network:

**N** *EXAC* (Expanded Academic Index). <http://er.library.northwestern.edu/detail.asp?id=35303&pn=3>  
or telnet to infotrac.library.nwu.edu (login and password are nusearch) Covers 1980 to the present. Under keyword option type film name and "movie reviews".

**N** *Readers Guide Abstracts* <http://er.library.northwestern.edu/detail.asp?id=34474&pn=1>  
or telnet to fscat.oclc.org (login is 100-107-366 and password is nusearch))  
Covers 1983 to the present. Do a subject search su: film name and su: review. Printed *Readers Guide to Periodical Literature*, 1901-

**N** *Web of Science* <http://er.library.northwestern.edu/detail.asp?id=34543&pn=1>  
Covers 1987 to the present. (Search as cited reference and limit to type of material: film review)

**N** *Arts and Humanities Citation Index* (1975-97)  
<http://er.library.northwestern.edu/detail.asp?id=34146&pn=1>

**N** *Social Science Citation Index* (1981-97)  
<http://er.library.northwestern.edu/detail.asp?id=34508&pn=1>

**N** *Science Citation Index* (1990-97)  
<http://er.library.northwestern.edu/detail.asp?id=35218&pn=1>

**N** *Science Citation Index* (1980-89)  
<http://er.library.northwestern.edu/detail.asp?id=35219&pn=1>  
(only available in the Science and Engineering library)  
To limit to book reviews: alt L, then search cited author alt F.

**N** *New York Times* (1980- ) <http://er.library.northwestern.edu/detail.asp?id=35464&pn=1>  
Printed index available from 1851-. (L071 N532) Film reviews in the print index are found under the heading "Motion-pictures."

**N** *Newspaper Abstracts Ondisc*. 1985- . <http://er.library.northwestern.edu/detail.asp?id=34436&pn=2>  
Type title and "movie review". Print indexes to individual papers located in Index Square.

**N** *Art Index*. 1929 - . <http://er.library.northwestern.edu/detail.asp?id=35081&pn=5>  
Type name and Motion picture reviews. Print format: H.W. Wilson, 1929- . (Index Square) In printed format reviews are found under the heading "Motion picture reviews."

**N** *Alternative Press Index*. 1991- <http://er.library.northwestern.edu/detail.asp?id=34123&pn=2>  
Printed index available from 1969 (050 A465). To locate reviews in the print index search under "Film reviews."

## INDEXES SPECIALIZING IN FILM JOURNALS

*Film Review Index*. Edited by Patricia King Hanson and Stephen L. Hanson. v.1: 1882-1949. v.2: 1950-1985. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1986-87. Refers to reviews in the *New York Times*, several general as well as trade journals.

## **L016.79143 F487**

**N** *International Film Archive*, 1972- <http://er.library.northwestern.edu/detail.asp?id=34279&pn=2> includes *Index to Film Periodicals*. Also consult printed index (*International Index to Film Periodicals* L016.79143 I61). This index is strong in the area of foreign films. Reviews in the print index can be found under the heading "Individual films."

**N** *Film Index International*. 1994. <http://er.library.northwestern.edu/detail.asp?id=34250&pn=1>  
Strong on historical data. After doing a film search, type F4 to obtain reviews (called references).

*Film Literature Index*. Albany, NY: State University of New York, Film and Television Documentation Center, 1973-. This index is arranged by title of the film, alphabetically integrated with all other articles on aspect of film covered by the index.

## **016.79143 F487**

Alvarez, Max Joseph. *Index to Motion Pictures Reviewed by Variety*, 1907-1980. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1982. This index lists all films by title and refers to date and page number in *Variety* magazine.

## **011.37 A473i**

*Magill's Cinema Annual*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Salem Press. 1982. Annual. Each volume contains essay reviews of approximately 80 films released within a given year, arranged alphabetically by title. References to reviews in several general sources are listed at the end of each essay.

## **791.4305 M194**

### **COLLECTIONS OF FILM REVIEW REFERENCES**

*The Film Index: A Bibliography*. v.1: Film as art. NY: Museum of Modern Art, 1941. This is the source for reviews of films from before 1935. The reviews can be found through the film title index.

## **L016.808 W956**

Bowles, S. *Index to Critical Film Reviews in British and American Film Periodicals*. NY: Burt Franklin & Co., 1974. 2v. This index of film periodicals covers the years 1932-71 and is continued by the *International Index to Film Periodicals*. References are arranged by title of film with director and reviewer indexes. Each citation lists the film's director and the length of the review.

## **791.43016 B787i**

Salem, James M. *A Guide to Critical Reviews*. Pt.IV. The screenplay. Covers 1927-1963 with a supplement 1963-1980. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1971-. This guide supplements the previous *Index to Critical Film Reviews in British and American Film Periodicals* by covering reviews in popular periodicals.

## **016.8092 S162g**

### **COLLECTIONS OF FILM CRITICISM**

*The New York Times Film Reviews, 1913-1968. Suppl. 1969-1994*. New York: New York Times, 1970. 6 v. and suppl.

## **L791.435 N532 and sup.**

Heinzkill, Richard. *Film Criticism: An Index to Critics' Anthologies*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1975. Reviews by well-known film critics, published in anthologies can be found in this volume, arranged by film title.

## **016.79143 H472f**

The locations of periodicals and newspapers in the Northwestern University Library are listed in NUcat, the computer catalog. A separate handout, *How to find a Periodical*, will help you use NUcat to locate the periodical you need in this library. Other sources are available for locating criticism and reviews. If you do not find the review you were looking for, please ask a reference librarian for assistance.