

How to Find a Book Review

Reference Department

Book reviews--articles intended to describe and criticize a book--are usually written shortly after the book appears. Some reviews, especially longer, scholarly reviews may take a year or longer to appear. To locate a book review, it is therefore necessary to know the date the book was published.

Literary criticism, on the other hand, may be written long after the book itself, perhaps centuries later. This guide pertains only to reviews, not to criticism.

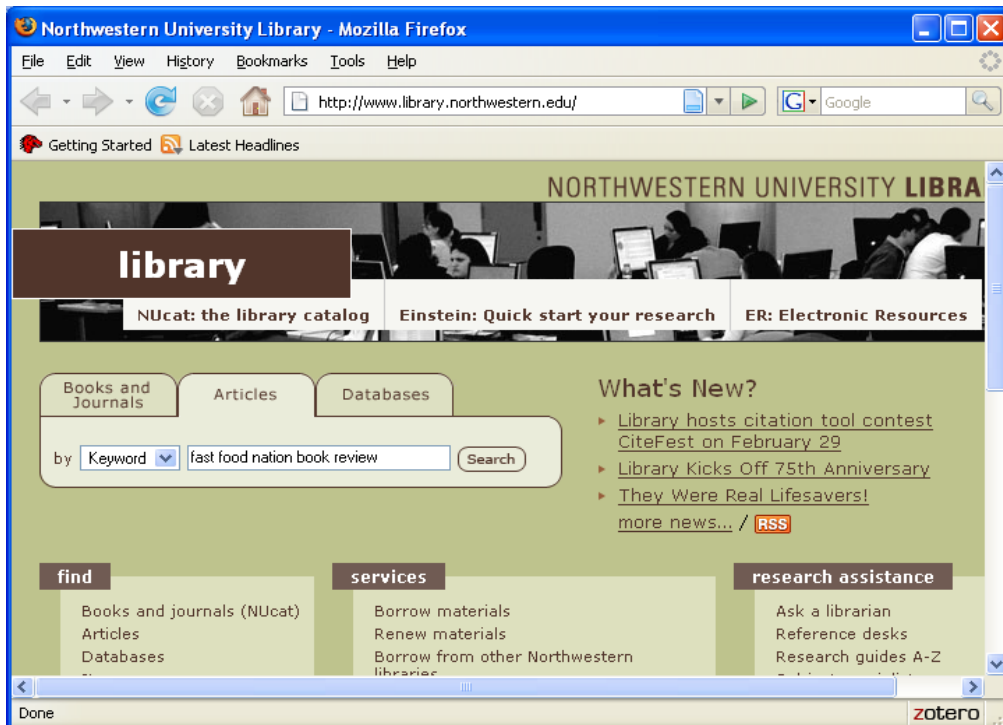
Step 1. Identify author, title and publication date of the book. You can use [NUcat](#) or [Worldcat](#) to find the publication date.

Step 2. Identify citations to book reviews. The tools below will help you identify the title of a journal and the date, volume number and page numbers where a review appeared. Some of the databases include the full-text of the article.

Step 3. Find the review. Use NUcat to locate journals and link to full-text online or find the print volume on the shelf in the library. Use the **Find it @ NU** button to link to full-text. If Northwestern doesn't have access to the online or print journal we can get it for you through Interlibrary Loan.

QUICK SEARCH

Many reviews can be found by searching online journal databases. The "Articles" tab on the library home page will search several databases simultaneously. Type in the title of the book followed by "book review".



Additional databases not included in the “Articles” search that are good sources of book reviews:

[Book Review Index Online](#)

[New York Review of Books](#)

[LexisNexis Academic](#) (includes New York Times Book Review)

[JSTOR](#) (latest 3-5 not included)

[Readers' Guide Abstracts](#) (After 1983)

[Readers' Guide Retrospective](#) (Before 1983)

Need More?

Tools designed specifically for finding book reviews:

Book Review Index. Detroit: Gale, 1965- PRINT ONLY. FIND IN REFERENCE ROOM.

Indexes every review in the more than 500 English language periodicals it covers. Especially useful is the twenty year cumulation, 1965-1984. Reviews are listed alphabetically by book authors' names, and there is an index by title. Bimonthly with annual cumulations.

Years covered: 1965-present

L 016.028 B723 Reference

Book Review Digest. NY: H.W. Wilson Co., 1905- . PRINT ONLY. FIND IN REFERENCE ROOM.

Although less comprehensive than the *Book Review Index*, above, it has the advantage of containing excerpts of many of the reviews and indicating the size of the reviews. Reviews are listed alphabetically by authors of books reviewed, with indexes by title and subject. Monthly, except February and July, with annual cumulations.

Years covered: 1905-present

L 015.73 B72 Reference

Internationale Bibliographie der Rezensionen wissenschaftlicher Literatur (IBR)

IBR contains over 900,000 entries about book reviews. The print resource is international and interdisciplinary, the reviews have been published in approx. 6,000 academic journals mainly in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Years covered 1971-2000

016.028 I62 Reference

Dig Deep.

In addition to the compilations listed below, many subject databases include book reviews. Examples include Historical Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts, and MLA International Bibliography. Check Research Guides for databases in your discipline.

Combined Retrospective Index to Book Reviews in Scholarly Journals, 1886-1974. Arlington, VA: Carrollton Press, 1979-82.

Includes journals in history, sociology and political science.

Years covered: 1886-1974

L016.0281 C731 Reference

Combined Retrospective Index to Book Reviews in Humanities Journals, 1802-1974. Woodbridge, CT:

Research Publications, 1982-84. 10 vols.

Years covered: 1802-1974

016.0281 C731.h Reference

Index to Book Reviews in the Humanities. Williamston, MI: Phillip Thomson, 1960-1990.

Index reviews in approximately 470 periodicals devoted to the humanities, including any history or social science reviews which appear in these periodicals. Published annually until 1990.

Years covered: 1960-1990

016.8 I38 Reference

New York Times:

Earlier (1851-2001) issues of the *New York Times* are available through [Proquest Historical Newspapers](#).

Type author name or book title in basic search. For books published after 1900, limit article type to “review”.

New York Times Book Review Index, 1896-1970. NY: New York Times/Arno Press, 1973. 5 vols.

Years covered: 1896-1970

L051 N5321 Reference

Recent (1980-current) issues of the *New York Times* are available through [LexisNexis Academic](#). Enter the book’s title followed by “and book review” in the top search box.