Reading Michael Ondaatje
English 290

Check subject guides under: Research by Subject → Canadian Literature

Background Information

Specialized encyclopedias, dictionaries and other resources are useful for obtaining background information on a topic, in addition to helping you focus your topic and identify the main concepts, terms and keywords that describe your topic. Check Reference Resources in the subject guide. Also check the following resources:

Dictionary of Literary Biography: Canadian Writers since 1960 (via Literature Resource Centre)
Profiles in Canadian Literature – Volume 8 (e-book)

Finding Books and Journal Articles

Research tools to consider: QCAT, Summon, Article Indexes & Databases, and Google Scholar.

1. Books

Search QCAT to find specific titles, authors and redefined subjects. For example:
ondaatje michael [search by subject]

To find books on a thematic approach to literature, consider searching these subject headings:

- Culture in literature
- Fiction technique
- Immigrants in literature
- Multiculturalism in literature
- Postmodernism (Literature)
- Race in literature

2. Articles

Search the following electronic journal database to find scholarly articles:

→ MLA International Bibliography
→ Literature Online (LION)

To find articles on your topic, think of the words that best describe your topic and then connect them with the Boolean operators: AND, OR, NOT.

To search indexes, click the tab Databases and enter the title of the database, e.g. MLA.

michael ondaatje AND in the skin of a lion
diaspora and Canadian literature and 1900-1999
To find out if Queen’s subscribes to the journal, click Get It! @ Queen’s if full text not readily available.

Search LION to find information about authors and criticism - also reference sources.

Search as Author: Ondaatje Michael
Search as Criticism: ondaatje michael AND myth*

3. Summon

With Summon, you can search, discover and access information on any topic from the Queen’s Library collections - print and electronic books, single articles to entire e-journals, newspapers, theses and more. You can limit your results to peer-reviewed materials, filter by year and format, narrow by additional subject terms and then save, print or email references.

Summon is a good starting point to find material for your research but if you are doing higher level research, you will want to search relevant subject specific databases.

Search the Web

Check our Search the Web guide: library.queensu.ca/research/guide/search-web

Google Advanced Search www.google.ca/advanced_search
Google Scholar scholar.google.ca/

By searching Google Scholar through the Queen’s Library website, the "Get It! @ Queen’s" citation link is activated (which allows you to click through to the Library’s subscriptions).

Evaluate Sources

Evaluating all of your sources is a crucial step of the research process. Go to the library guide on Evaluating Sources for criteria on how to judge information sources (especially for websites).

Cite Sources

Check our Citation and Style Guides page at: How-to & Help → How to Cite Sources

MLA is the preferred style of documentation in English literature. Check QCAT for print copies in the library system.