Introduction to the Study of Drama  
Research Strategy for Drama 100

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Consider Resources

Check out the following subject guides which will direct you to key information sources in the subject.

Research Tools  →  Resources by Subject  →  Drama  
History  
Primary Sources

Find Books ...

Search the library catalogue (QCAT) to find books, videos, journals (both scholarly and popular but not the articles within them) and more ...

Search by Keyword

Use a keyword search to find books on a topic when you do not have an author or title.

Think of keywords that best describe your topic and connect terms with and, or, not. For a selection of books on the characterization of women in Shakespeare’s plays and in particular Othello, try this:

women and character? and othello

Select useful title(s) and look at the complete record by clicking on Full Record. Use the subject headings to provide more keyword ideas or as individual searches themselves.

(female? or women or “sex role”) and character? and (othello or shakespeare)

Search by Subject Heading

Subject search allows you to search for items about a specific subject. To successfully search by subject, you need to use LC Subject Headings. Useful subject headings when searching for information about a specific author and/or his works include:
Name of Author (last name, first name)
Name of Author - Criticism and interpretation
Name of Author. Title of a specific work

For example: Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616
Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616 - Criticism and interpretation
Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616 - Stage history
Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616. Hamlet

Some examples of subject headings for this topic:

- English drama - Early modern and Elizabethan, 1500-1600
- English drama - 17th century - History and criticism
- Globe Theatre (Southwark, London, England)
- London - England - Theaters
- Literature and society - England - History - 16th century

Try searching the following subject headings when researching scene design:

- Clothing and dress
- Costume
- Fashion
- Furniture Europe history
- Set designers
- Stage lighting
- Stage props
- Theater architecture
- Theater and society
- Theater history
- Theater production and directors
- Theatrical makeup
- Theatrical producers and directors
- Theaters design and construction

Try browsing in the stacks for these call numbers:

- Interior decoration, furniture...: NK17003496.3
- Clothing and Dress: TX340
- Costume and Fashion: GT500-2370
- Drama: PN1600-3307
- Drama history: PN1720-1861
- Fashion: UC480-485
- Dramatic representation: PN2000-3307
- Acting: PN2061-2071
- Theatrical lighting, set design: PN2085-2091

Search Journal Indexes to find Articles

Try these journal indexes first:

- → International Bibliography of Theatre and Dance, 1984 - present
- → Humanities Abstracts, 1984 - present
- → Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective, 1907-1984
- → MLA Bibliography, 1926 - present (for critical analyses of plays)
- → Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals (for theatre architecture and design)
To search journal indexes, click: **Articles under Research Tools**
Click on the letter and browse the list or type the desired title in the search box.

**Find Reviews and Criticism**

Theatre reviews appear in a variety of sources, including popular magazines, newspapers and theatre related journals as well as on websites.

To find a review of a particular play or production, first identify when the play was first performed or when a particular production opened. Most major productions are reviewed soon after they open and therefore you will need to select an index, database or other resource that covers the time period in which the play was staged.

Stauffer Library subscribes to a number of national and international newspapers. To find out what the library has, search QCAT by the title of the newspapers, or by subject heading, e.g.

- montreal quebec newspapers
- london england newspapers
- new york n.y. newspapers

The library subscribes to a number of full text newspapers, which include:

**The Globe and Mail**
Time coverage is from 1844 to within 3-4 years of current date.

**Toronto Star – Pages of the Past**
Time coverage is from 1892 excluding current 2-3 years.

**Times Digital Archive**
Time coverage is from 1785 to 1985.

**New York Times**
Time coverage is from 1851 excluding current 3-4 years.

For more current news & reviews, check **Factiva** or **Lexis Nexis** for full text of theatre reviews from major national and international newspapers.

For more information about newspapers, check the News Resources guide at:
library.queensu.ca/inforef/newspapers/newsindex.html

For more review resources, check the **Reviews** section of the Drama subject guide at:
library.queensu.ca/inforef/drama/guidereviews.htm

Play analyses written by academics and drama scholars are published in scholarly journals. Check the **Criticism** page of the Drama subject guide at:
library.queensu.ca/inforef/drama/guidecrit.htm
**Find Biographical Information**

Try the following resources for information on playwrights, designers, directors...

- Biography Index, 1946-     REF Z5301.B61
- Canadian Theatre Encyclopedia   www.canadiantheatre.com
- The Continuum Companion to Twentieth Century Theatre   REF PN2035.C65 2002
- Encyclopedia Britannia   (Online)
- North American Theatre Online
- Oxford Companion to American Theatre   (Online)
- Oxford Encyclopedia of Theatre & Performance   REF PN2035.094 2003 and Online
- Theatrical Design in the Twentieth Century   REF PN2091.S8T47 1996
- Theatrical Designers   REF PN2096.A1M54 1992†

Also check the **Biographies** section of the Drama subject guide at:
  library.queensu.ca/inforef/drama/guidebiog.htm

**Find Images**

Search QCAT for books with pictures. If you find a title on your topic, look at the specific title and check the description and subject headings for the book. If the book is illustrated, the description will say **ill** or **illus**.

You can also find images by doing a keyword search and typing in “your topic” and “pictorial works” or “in art”.

- fashion and “pictorial works”

You can also do a subject search and look for or add the term, “pictorial works”

- Theater--Pictorial works

Check out popular magazines, e.g. *Life*, *Time*, *New Yorker*, for images in advertising and articles.

Check the poster collections in the Jordan Library (2nd floor, Douglas Library)
  library.queensu.ca/webmus/sc/collections_broadsides.htm

Other sources to check include:

- The Historical Encyclopedia of Costumes.   GT510 .R3313 1988
- The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Fashion.   GT513 .K813
- Encyclopedia of Furniture.   REF NK2205 .A7 1965
- Theater Backstage from A to Z.   REF PN2091 .M3 L68 1998
**Art Collection**

Check out this collection which is located on the 2nd floor (NE wing) of Stauffer Library. You can find exhibition catalogues, art-related books and current art journals (all of which would be illustrated) here.

Also, look at the Art subject guide and check the links under websites and encyclopedias.

**Some Web Sources**

*Ad*Access  [scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/adaccess/](http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/adaccess/)
Advertisements from U.S. and Canadian newspapers and magazines from 1911-1950

**ARTStor** (via Research Databases)
Collection of images covering many cultures and time periods. Includes set designs and costume images.

*Corbis*  [pro.corbis.com](http://pro.corbis.com)
Large collection of popular/commercial photographic images

**Google Image Search**  [www.google.com/imghp?hl=en](http://www.google.com/imghp?hl=en)
**AlltheWeb’s picture search**  [www.alltheweb.com/](http://www.alltheweb.com/)

*Artcyclopedia*  [www.artcyclopedia.com/](http://www.artcyclopedia.com/)
Online directory of museum art on the Web

*Visual Collections*  [www.davidrunsey.com/collections/](http://www.davidrunsey.com/collections/)
View maps, artwork, photographs, and other items from renowned collections

**Search Web Resources**

**Comprehensive Sites**

*Academic Info Drama Studies Gateway*  [academicinfo.net/drama.html](http://academicinfo.net/drama.html)

*Artslynx International Theatre Resources*  [www.artslynx.org/theatre/](http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/)
Artlynx has available several internet resource guides on various areas of visual and performing arts, such as:
  *Artslynx International Theatre Design & Technology*  [www.artslynx.org/theatre/design.htm](http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/design.htm)

*McCoy’s Guide to Theatre and Performance Studies*  [www.stetson.edu/csata/thr_guid.html](http://www.stetson.edu/csata/thr_guid.html)
Links to comprehensive sites, unique or special interest sites and sites providing valuable research tools.
Voice of the Shuttle (Media Studies)  
vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=782

Links to a variety of resource lists, electronic publications, and information regarding theatre companies and current productions, festivals, theater reviews, scripts, screenwriting...

WWW Virtual Library of Theatre and Drama  
www.vl-theatre.com/

This gateway points to many sites for theatre and drama. Categories include schools, book dealers, theatre companies worldwide, organizations, mailing lists, electronic text archives for plays and more.

Costume

Artslynx International Arts Resources
Costume design resources  
www.artslynx.org/theatre/descost.htm

The Costumer’s Manifesto  
www.costumes.org/
Very large link collection, including theatrical costuming

The Costume Page  
www.costumepage.org/

The History of Costume  
www.siue.edu/COSTUMES/COSTUME1_INDEX.HTML

The Costume Gallery  
www.costumegallery.com/

The Costume Site  
www.milieux.com/costume/

Theatre History

TheatreHistory  
www.theatrehistory.com/
Theatre History on the Web  
www.videoccasions-nw.com/history/jack.html

Other Specialized Resources

Internet Public Library – Pathfinder for Stagecraft/Technical Theatre  
www.ipl.org/div/pf/entry/48529

For other web sites, check the Drama subject guide.

Evaluating Websites

Anyone can create a web page so it is particularly important to analyze and assess information that you find on the Web before using it in a research paper. Go to our Evaluating Web Information at:

library.queensu.ca/inforef/tutorials/qcat/evalint.htm

Help  → How To … → Find Web Resources  → Evaluate Web Information