Contemporary Irish Drama
Research Strategy for Drama 319

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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
English Language and Literature

Find Background Information

The materials listed below are a selection of reference resources for finding information on playwrights, plays, genre and much more.

Oxford Reference Online
Includes literature, history and performing arts subject dictionaries

Research Tools → Research Databases → Oxford Reference Online

Oxford Encyclopedia of Theatre and Performance (via O.R.O.)
Dictionary of Celtic Mythology (via O. R.O.)
Dictionary of Irish Literature  REF PR8796.D5 1996
Dictionary of Irish Mythology  REF BL980.I7 E44 1987
North American Theatre Online (via Research Databases)

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 class in Dublin in 1904, try this:

class and dublin

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

("social classes" or "middle class" or "working class") and (dublin or ireland) and "20th century"

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: Synge, J.M. (John Millington), 1871-1909.
Synge, J.M. (John Millington), 1871-1909--Criticism and interpretation

In addition to searching personal names of playwrights and titles of plays, the following subject terms will retrieve library sources related to 20th century Irish drama.

Abbey Theatre--History
Dublin Ireland--Intellectual life
English drama--Irish authors
Feminism--Ireland
Ireland--Drama
Ireland--In literature
Ireland--Intellectual life--20th century
Irish drama
Literature and society--Ireland--20th century
Theater--Ireland
Theater--Ireland--Dublin--History
Women--Ireland

Other useful subject headings for an overview of the historical period include:

Dublin Ireland--History
Dublin Ireland--Politics and government
Dublin Ireland--Social conditions
Dublin Ireland--Social life and customs
Ireland--Economic conditions--20th century

Note further subdivisions by time
Try searching the following subject headings when researching scene design:

- Clothing and dress
- Theater architecture
- Costume
- Theater and society
- Fashion
- Theater--History
- Furniture--History
- Theater--Production and direction
- Set designers
- Theatrical makeup
- Stage lighting
- Theatrical companies
- Stage props
- Theatrical producers and directors

**TASK:** Find books on the nationalist movements in Ireland.

**Search Journal Indexes to find Articles**

- International Bibliography of Theatre and Dance, 1984 - present
- MLA Bibliography, 1926 - present (for critical analyses of plays)
- Literature Online (for critical analyses of plays)
- Historical Abstracts, 1954 - present (for Irish history, politics, economics...)
- Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals, 1934 - (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.

**International Bibliography of Theatre and Dance**

Find: (irish or ireland) and national theatre
Narrow by: Academic Journals

**MLA**

Search: commedia dell’arte (as subject)
Modify Search to add: masks
Limit by English language

**LION**

Quick Search: Ulster cycle
Historical Abstracts

Search for: (nationalism or independence movements) and ireland
Modify search:
(nationalism or republicanism or independence movements) and ireland in subject terms
Limit by time period: 1895-1904

Another bibliographical resource to consider is:

Bibliography of British and Irish History Online
www.rhs.ac.uk/bibwel.asp

The Royal Historical Society bibliography is a guide to writing on British and Irish history from the Roman period to the present day.

**TASK:** Find articles on the birth of the Irish National Theatre (using Historical Abstracts).

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.

  london england 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.
Times Online - Review of Dublin by Lamplight
entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts_and_entertainment/stage/theatre/article1689691.ece

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

The following is a selective list of respected journals. Some are available online and some only in print. Check QCAT for coverage and access.

The Irish Times
New Hibernia Review
Irish University Review
Irish Journal of Sociology
Irish Studies Review
Eire-Ireland, a Journal of Irish Studies

TASK: There is a good bibliography on modern Irish drama and theatre from 1997 to 2002 in Eire-Ireland. Can you find this overview article? The information you have is as follows:
Eire-Ireland: Journal of Irish Studies, Fall-Winter, 2002 by Joyce Flynn.

Search the Web

Check our Search the Web guide at: library.queensu.ca/inforef/guides/www.htm

1. Check the following websites:

Irish Theatre Online www.irishtheatreonline.com
Irish Playography www.irishplayography.com
Theatre History Online www.theatrehistory.com
Artslynx International Theatre Resources www.artslynx.org/theatre/
Victorian Web www.victorianweb.org/
Irish Literature, Mythology, Folklore and Drama www.luminarium.org/mythology/ireland/
Irish Resources in the Humanities irith.org/index.jsp
BBC Southern Counties Video and Interactive Features - Dublin by Lamplight www.bbc.co.uk/southerncounties/content/articles/2007/05/12/bf07_dublin_video_feature.shtml
2. Check the websites listed on the Drama Subject Guide:
   Research Tools → Resources by Subject → Drama → Websites

3. Use the search engine, Google, for precise natural language searching or Google Scholar as a gateway for academic Web searching:

   Google Advanced Search [www.google.ca/advanced_search?hl=en]

   Google Advanced Search offers a variety of ways to structure a more precise search and to improve the efficiency of your search results. For academic sites, enter in the domain field, e.g.: .edu, .ac.uk, .mcgill.ca.

   scholar.google.ca/

   Find images of plays using

   Google Image Search [www.google.com/imghp?hl=en]

   AlltheWeb's picture search [www.alltheweb.com/]

**Evaluate 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

**Cite Sources**

MLA format is the preferred style of documentation in Film and Media. A copy of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers is on Reserve (LB2369.G53 2003).

You can also access online by going to our Cite Sources page at:

   library.queensu.ca/libguides/citationguides.htm

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*Learning and Research Services*

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