Research Tips for ENGL 200 001

As your assignment states, most of these questions can be answered by more than one research tool, I am pointing to only a few. Should you want a fuller introduction to the resources available online at Stauffer Library feel free to contact me at the email listed below.

1. Question 1 really is most economically answered by the [Oxford English Dictionary Online](https://www.oed.com). We have a paper copy of this 20 volume etymological dictionary in the Reference Section, Stauffer Library at the following call number: PE1625 .O87 1989t

   However, users often find the online version most helpful. To navigate to the dictionary go to the databases tab on the library homepage> type ‘OED’ in the search box> and select Oxford English Dictionary Online.

   Just search for ‘prick’ in the quick search field and read each definition of the word. Note differences between the noun, adjective and verb expression. Note the Help button and options for printing, saving, emailing and citing this word at the top of your entry. Also, if you scroll to the bottom of the screen the dictionary provides a handy citation for this entry.
2. The primary tool used by English Literature researchers for scholarly journal articles is the **MLA International Bibliography**.

Again, go to the Databases tab> type MLA in the search box> and select MLA International Bibliography.

Type ‘Sir Philip Sidney’ in the first search box, changing the field drop down box to ‘Subject Heading’ to run a basic search. Check the Limit to ‘peer review’ box to ensure you are sourcing the academic journals required. Also note the ‘Date range’ option. Your questions requires papers published after 1990, make the appropriate change here.

After you get a results set back, then you can start narrowing down the articles that are of interest to you by modifying you search to add other term which describe your particular interest in Sidney, or you can use the ‘Narrow results’ option on the right to narrow to say, *Astrophil and Stella*. Now we have 59 results – a reasonable number to sort.

As you can see below, we have our date and peer review limiters in place and the results reflect this prerequisite.
3. Question 3 requires book reviews. This can be done most efficiently online where you can search one database which holds multiple book reviewing journals. I am suggesting Book Review Index Plus. You can find this tool, again, using the Databases tab. Place your book title in quotation marks to search for the exact title.

After you click on Search, the results will appear at the bottom of the search screen. Reading these reviews will equip you to answer your professors questions about the reception of the book.
4. The easiest way to find books may be by using QCAT, the library catalogue. The tab for QCAT is next to the Database tab. Before you search, change the drop down box to Subject Heading and type ‘Chaucer, G.’ in the search box.

The resulting list is everything the library holds relating to Chaucer. However your questions seems to require a biography. Look for the link at Chaucer, Geoffrey, d. 1400-Biography. (4). The 4 indicates we have 4 books. Note the location and the call number and use the ‘show on floor plan’ link if you are not familiar with Stauffer Library. How will you determine which title is best for novice reader?

5. This question requires a bit of knowledge of the Middle English period, specifically the early Middle English (eME). As such, there are many ways to get a broad overview that will supply you with the specifics of the 13th century.
I like a series called *Cambridge Histories Online*, and specifically for this question the *Cambridge History of Medieval English Literature*. If you navigate through the chapters, you will find chapter 3 deals specifically with Early Middle English, esp. ~ page 81.

By reading the endnotes in the Introduction by Norman Blake to *The Cambridge History of the English Language 1066–1476*. I was able to locate, in Stauffer Library, two books which list authors and works from the 13th century:

   
   https://qcat-library-queensu-ca.proxy.queensu.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=612932
   
   See p.8 specifically – list of rhythmic prose adapted from Latin sources.

   
   See p. 13 – list of 8 romances.

And finally, the Blake introduction mentions a book which contains 13th century works:

*Selections from early middle English, 1130-1250.*


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https://qcat.library.queensu.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=235566

This book has been loaded on Project Gutenberg:

The Project Gutenberg EBook of Selections from early Middle English, 1130-1250, by various:

"Selections from early Middle English, 1130-1250 Part I: Texts"

http://www.archive.org/stream/selectionsfromea26413gut/26413-0.txt

I believe the *Index of Printed Middle English Prose* and *Manual of the writings in Middle English, 1050-1500* are being held at the reference desk to answer question 5. Please consult them there, and leave them for your peers.

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DOI:10.1017/CHOL9780521264754.002 or in print:


https://qcat.library.queensu.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=2966226