Literature Reviews

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RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS

Your Proposal (week of Feb 14) requires:

➢ **10** Primary Source Materials (Minimum)

➢ **Time Period Restriction:**
  - Select topic (e.g., film, star, tech) occurring between **1928-1960**
  - Base your search limits on dates of your topic
CIN201 GUIDE – Primary Sources

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CIN201: Film Cultures 1: Art & Industry (2018)
A comprehensive guide to finding the best primary source materials (1928-1966) for your Cinema Studies assignment.

Primary Sources: Online Resources

Jump to the section you need:

1. Databases for Film Resources
   - Direct links to research databases containing magazines, newspapers (incl. ProQuest).
   - Be sure to use filters tools in the databases to narrow your search results (e.g., restrict dates to find contemporary film reviews).

2. Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America (MPPDA) Archive
   - Focuses on correspondence and documentation relating to film industry policy and public relations, distributor-exhibitor relations, censorship and self-regulation for specific companies and individuals.

3. Individual Historical Publications
   - Search specific newspapers and magazines. Exploring one publication at a time narrow the range of search results.

Also check out UTSC Primary Sources Guide’s “Primary Sources on the Internet” for historical sources covering a wider range of topics.

Databases for Contemporaneous Film Resources (magazines, newspapers, film reviews)

1. Media History Digital Library (1856-1996, depends on the publication)
   - An essential source of primary historical information on film covering the period before, during, and after 1928-1960. Includes digitized versions of Film Daily (1918-1948), Motion Picture Herald (1931-1948), Photoplay (1914-1943), American Cinematographer (1921-1942), Journal of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers (1916-1954) and many more.
WHAT ARE PRIMARY SOURCES?

"A primary source is a document that was created at the time of the event or subject you've chosen to study, or by people who were observers of, or participants in that event or topic."

~ E.H. Brown
“Writing about History” UofT Writing Advice
http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/types-of-writing/history
TYPES of PRIMARY SOURCES

Text (film reviews, articles) & Objects (images, film footage) created in that time period you are studying:

- Trade & Industry Magazines, Newspapers & News Reels
- Production materials (scripts, storyboards, photos)
- Marketing Materials (press releases, press kits, posters, ads)
- Business & Government Documents (memos, contracts, reports, policies, laws, transcripts)
- Correspondence (business or personal)
- Interviews, Diaries, Speeches
  - NOT autobiographies written with someone else
  - NOT biographies
PRIMARY vs. SECONDARY SOURCES

Secondary Sources provide overviews of events or indepth study of a particular subject using primary source materials and research done by others.

LOOK @ the resources & facts, NOT the analysis
WHERE TO PRIMARY SOURCES

MICROFORM
Media Commons (3rd floor of Robarts)

Look in guide under:
Finding Primary Sources/
Microfilm @ Media Commons

• Cinema pressbooks from the original studio collections (1930-40s)
• Production Code Records
• Audience Research Reports
• J.Edgar Hoover FBI Files including Investigations & Surveillance on Communism in Hollywood
• Warner Brothers Screenplays

SCANS OF PUBLICATIONS
(Online)

Look in guide under:
Finding Primary Sources/ Online Resources

• Article Databases with filters e.g. ProQuest
• Media History Digital Library (1856-1996)
• Movie Review Query Engine (MRQE)

KEYWORDS will be IMPORTANT!
PRIMARY SOURCES: Microfilm

Microfilm Collections at Media Commons (MC)

Check out Primary Source: Microfilm section of the guide to learn more about

• The microfilm collections are available at MC, including:
  – Gallup Looks at the Movies: Audience Research Reports, 1940-1950
  – Hollywood and the Production Code: Selected files from the Motion Picture Association of America Production Code Administration collection
  – J. Edgar Hoover and Radicalism in Hollywood. Part 1, Communist Infiltration of the Motion Picture Industry

• How to request microfilm
• How to use MC’s microfilm equipment.
ARTICLE DATABASES

Media Digital History - Lantern

Free online search platform that holds:

• **Full Scans of Magazines** on film industry, recorded sound and broadcasting from **1849 to 1996**

• Try out the **Advanced Search Options** (link at top)
  – Avoid using **AND, OR, THE**

• **Limited Filters**
  – **Date of Publication**
  – **Publication Title**
ARTICLE DATABASES

ProQuest

Great search platform that includes:

- **Trade Magazines for Film Industry & Fan Magazines**

- **Popular Magazines**

- **International Newspapers**
ARTICLE DATABASES

ProQuest – Use the FILTERS

– **Date of Publication** (incredibly important)

– **Source Type:** Historical Newspapers, Trade Magazines *(NOT scholarly)*

– **Document Type:** Review (film or book), Feature, Cover Story, Editorial, Interviews, Reports, Image, Advertisement

– **Publication Title**
SEARCH TIPS - Keywords

Choose Appropriate Language

Trade magazine & Industry VS. Scholarly

Nicknames, Slang and outdated terms
– Film Noir, Feminism
– Dames, Starlets, Gangsters, Detectives

Have a List to Keep Track

Keywords that work (or FAIL)

Keep an eye out for potential keywords
– names, businesses, important events, slang
SEARCH TIPS – Quotes & Asterisk

Use in Library Catalogue, Google & databases:

**Quotation marks** *(exact phrase)*
Use to search for film title, names, 2 word terms
• “Bette Davis”
• “motion pictures” “All About Eve”

**Asterisk** *(wildcard)*
• Censor* = Censors, Censorship, Censored
"Bette Davis" AND lawyer

653 results

1. Bette Davis Finally Showed Them

2. FILES ACTION TO END IT: Bette Davis 'Sick' of Paying Alimony
   Los Angeles Times (1923-1995); Los Angeles, Calif. [Los Angeles, Calif] 03 Nov 1954: 17
Film - “Little Foxes”

Director – “William Wyler”
OR Willie Wyler
Or Wyler

“law suit” England

Studios - Goldwyn, Warner

Husband - Arthur Farnsworth

Betts Davis’ absence due to nervous condition...
“Little Foxes” may be her best picture

Rumors circulating since Bette Davis’ collapse on the set
during her second week’s work on “The Little Foxes” have
grown like the proverbial snowball.

First rumor—she has a date with the stork. Second—she bat-
tled with Director William Wyler to the point where either he or
she had to quit the picture. Third—she will not finish “The Little
Foxes.” Fourth—Bette’s lawyers are now in conference with Sam’s
lawyers, meaning she’ll be involved with a worse law suit than that
she fought and lost in England several years ago.

What are the facts?—They’re nothing like so fantastic as the
fabrications Hollywood revels in.
Remember – Be Strategic

Track your Searches!

Resources
- UofT Library catalogue, Google Scholar
- Specific Databases – ProQuest, Lantern
- Specific Magazines / Newspapers Titles

Keywords
- Topics, Film Titles, Studios, Actors, Technology

Filters you applied
- Date Range, Source Type (Historical Newspapers, Trade Magazines, NOT scholarly), Document Types (Review, Feature, Cover Story, Advertisement, Editorial, Image, Interviews, Reports)
Request Items from Other Libraries

✓ **Inter Campus Delivery** from Mississauga or Scarborough to Robarts
  - [https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/request-item](https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/request-item)

✓ **Inter Library Loan Requests** to other institutions (pdf or mailing of book)
  - [https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/ill](https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/ill)

Be sure to plan for enough time for retrieval
Citation Help

- **Workshops** - Registration will be required. Announcement will be sent to class.

- **Citation Managers** are tools that help collect publishing info you need for references and can format in-text citations / bibliographies (e.g., Zotero).
  - Book an appointment with Kate to register, set up, & learn how use citation manager.

- [https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/citationmanagement](https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/citationmanagement)
ASK for HELP

• Email

• In person
  • Ref Desk, 2nd Fl. Robarts
  • Book a consultations

• Instant Message (Ask)

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