



Finding Book Reviews Step-by-Step

Library Website: library.clackamas.edu

Library Reference: 657-6958 ext. 2290

When you need a book review for a college class, you probably need an *editorial* review written by a professional reviewer (a scholar, critic, librarian, staff writer, etc.) rather than a “reader review.”

Professional reviews are published in:

- **Review publications:** *New York Times Book Review*; *TLS* (London Times Literary Supplement); *Booklist*; *Choice*; *Library Journal*; *Kirkus Reviews*; *Publisher's Weekly*
- **Newspapers:** *Oregonian*; *Seattle Times*; *Washington Post*; *London Times*; thousands more...
- General-interest **magazines:** *Newsweek*; *Time*; *USA Today*...
- Special-interest **magazines and journals:** *Archaeology*; *Discover*; *English Studies*; *Sports Illustrated*...

Full-text reviews or excerpts from reviews may be available...

- Online from bookstore websites (Amazon, Powells, Barnes & Noble)
- In our electronic article index subscriptions:
Academic Search Premier (EBSCO) *Access World News* (NewsBank)
New York Times Historical (ProQuest)
- In the printed *Book Review Digest*. (REF Z 1219 .C 95)

Note: not all books receive professional reviews; even some very popular books do not.

1. Quick-and-Easy: Bookstore websites

Amazon (www.amazon.com), Powells (www.powells.com) and Barnes & Noble (www.barnesandnoble.com) all provide at least some editorial reviews / excerpts.

- Search the store's website for your title and select it. Find the professional reviews (if any).
Amazon: click **See all editorial reviews**.
Powells: scan down the page for review excerpts
Barnes & Noble: Look for **About the Book**; choose **From the Critics**
 - If you need a critical review, look for one from the publications listed above. (Avoid the store's own review or the “Publisher Description” – after all, they want to sell you that book!)
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2. Reviews in Magazines & Journals: EBSCO's *Academic Search Premier*

(Research Gateway >> Find Articles >> EBSCO >> All databases >> Academic Search Premier)

A. Keyword search – try this first:

Enter book **title** on 1st line; enter **review*** on the 2nd line (gets *review* or *reviews*); search.
Check that the article is not just a few lines or a best-seller list, and check the source.

B. No luck? Try this:

- Open **Indexes** tab; choose **Reviews & Products**
- **Browse** for your book title. **Mark** the box by the book title and click **Search**
Sometimes a title is listed oddly (*Lies & Lying...* rather than *Lies and Lying...*) or is listed two different ways – if so, mark both boxes.

Note: No full-text? We may be able to obtain the review by Interlibrary Loan. Ask a librarian!

3. Reviews in Newspapers: *Access World News (NewsBank)*

Best for **recent books**. Covers 1600 papers, a few back as far as 1977, but most of them 2000-present.
Log on: Research Gateway >> Find Articles >> NewsBank >> Access World News
Choose **Advanced Search**

Use **quotes** to search for the **exact** title.
(Drop "The" from the beginning.)
Select **Lead/First Paragraph** from menu.

book NEAR1 review*

This finds *book* and *review*, *reviews*, *reviewer*, etc. within 1 word of each other.

Setting **Oldest matches first** may help.

SEARCHING: **The World** selected title - [More Information](#)

for: "secret life of bees" in Lead/First Paragr. ▾

AND ▾ "book NEAR1 review*" in All Text ▾

return: Oldest matches first ▾

timeframe: all years ▾

custom date:

For a **one-word title**, try adding the author to the first box: "jared diamond" AND collapse

4. Special Case: *New York Times Book Review* (good for lengthy, serious, critical reviews)

A. For books published **2000-present** use *AccessWorld News* (see above).

Specify **NYTBR** as the **source**.

Title in quotes, drop "The"

Getting best sellers lists? Try this.
(To get a new box, click Add field")

SEARCHING: **The World** selected title - [More Information](#)

for: "new york times book review" in Source ▾

AND ▾ "kite runner" in Lead/First Paragr. ▾

NOT ▾ "best seller" or "best sellers" in Headline ▾

return: Oldest matches first ▾

timeframe: all years ▾

B. For books published **1851-2002**: use *New York Times Historical*

Log on: Library Home > Research Gateway > Find Articles > ProQuest > *New York Times Historical*

Basic Search

"devil in the white city"

Enter title in quotes

Open **More Search Options**

Specify that you want a **Review**

It may help to see oldest articles first

More Search Options ^ Hide options

Look for terms in: Citation and document text ▾

Document Type: Review ▾

Author:

Sort results by: Oldest (historical) first ▾

5. Printed Book Review Indexes

Book Review Digest (1920-present)

REF Z 1219 .C95

(includes excerpts of reviews)

Book Review Index (1965-present)

REF Z 1035 .A1 B6

(citations of reviews)

If your book has been published or reprinted several times, you will need the **original publication year**.

Try *Google*, *Wikipedia* (www.wikipedia.org) or *Contemporary Authors* (REF PN 771 .C6).

6. And there's more... *Gale Literary Criticism Encyclopedias*

Ask a librarian to help you find reviews in these sets.