

MOTION PICTURE REVIEWS

King's College Library holds a variety of print and electronic sources that contain movie reviews. The appropriate place to look for a review depends on the date of the film's release. Reviews of recent productions may be found in electronic databases, while information about older films may be located in the print sources listed below. Be sure to find out the date the film was first shown before you search for reviews. When using print sources, remember that reviews of a film that came out late in December might appear in the index dated for the following year.

ELECTRONIC DATABASES

The following databases cover all subject areas and contain reviews for many types of movies:

Academic Search Premier (sometimes referred to as "EBSCO") contains abstracts and indexing for periodicals from a wide variety of disciplines. Coverage begins in the mid 1970s, with full text coverage beginning in the early 1990s for many publications.

Historical New York Times, from ProQuest, contains all of the issues of the NYT from the beginning of its publication in 1851 up to 2004. The articles are complete and printable.

Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe contains full-text articles from many major national and international newspapers from the mid-1970s until the present.

The **databases listed below** are examples of discipline specific sources that contain reviews for films that have plots or settings related to a particular discipline. For instance, America: History and Life contains citations and links to reviews of the films *Pearl Harbor* and *Grapes of Wrath*. The Criminal Justice Periodical Index contains reviews of *The Shawshank Redemption*.

America: History and Life
ATLA Religion Database
Criminal Justice Periodical Index
Communication and Mass Media Complete
Historical Abstracts
PsycINFO
Science Full Text Select

Database Search Tips

When searching for reviews in an electronic database, enter the title of the movie and the words movie review (or simply "review") in the search box. If the movie's title is a phrase, enclose the title in quotation marks.

Examples:

"Spider-man 3" and movie review
Shrek and review

PRINT SOURCES

Print sources are required to locate reviews for older movies that are not covered in the databases. The abstracts and indexes listed below are located on the main floor of the library. When using newspaper indexes, search under "**Motion Pictures - Reviews.**" Earlier films (1930s and 40s) might be listed under "**Moving Pictures - Reviews.**" The Magill's resources listed below are located in the reference collection, which is also on the main floor. If you need assistance with any of the following resources, please consult a reference librarian.

Newspapers

- Abstracts & Indexes **The Christian Science Monitor.** Dates covered: 1974 to 2006.
- Abstracts & Indexes **Los Angeles Times.** Dates covered: 1988 to 2006.
- Abstracts & Indexes **New York Times Index.** Dates covered: 1913 to present.
- Abstracts & Indexes **The Washington Post.** Dates covered: 1988 to present.

General Sources

- Abstracts & Indexes **Film Review Index vol. 1, 1882-1949; vol. 2, 1950-1985.**
- R
791.43
M272 **Magill's Survey of Cinema. English Language Films, First Series.** 1980.
- R
791.43
M272 M1 **Magill's Survey of Cinema. English Language Films, Second Series.**
1981.
- R
791.43
M272 M2 **Magill's Cinema Annual.** 1982 to present.
- R
791.43
M272 M3 **Magill's Survey of Cinema: Foreign Language Films.** 1985.
- R
791.43
N42N **New York Times Film Reviews.** Dates covered: 1969-70 & 1971-72.
(The reviews were originally published in the *New York Times*.)
- Abstracts & Indexes **Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature.** Dates covered: 1900 to 1996.

For additional assistance with using these resources or with finding reviews, please speak with a reference librarian.