

### FINDING BOOK REVIEWS

Book reviews provide valuable information when you are studying a particular work. A well-written review will give you the following information:

1. **a critical evaluation of a book.**
2. **a brief summary of the plot or subject matter.**
3. **information that may help you to decide if you want to read the book.**

The length of book reviews varies; some are only 50 words long, while others are essay-length articles written by authorities in the field. The latter are often "state of the art" reviews that summarize and evaluate the current literature on a subject.

### HOW TO LOCATE BOOK REVIEWS

Special indexes are available to help you locate book reviews. In order to use them you will need to know:

1. **the author's name.**
2. **the title of the book.**
3. **the year the book was originally published.**

**NOTE:** The date of publication is especially important because reviews usually appear soon after a book is published. The date can be found on the back of the book's title page. When more than one date is given, use the earliest date, unless your edition is a major revision or a new translation. If you do not have access to the book and need to find the date, you may find that information in the Library's Online Catalog, Books-in-Print (an electronic database), or at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).

If your book is so new that reviews have not yet been listed in an index, consult recent issues of the *New York Times Book Review*; *TLS: the Times Literary Supplement*; *New York Review of Books*; *Time*, and other reviewing sources. Electronic databases, such as *Academic Search Premier* and *Lexis-Nexis Academic*, usually provide very current information.

The list below includes many of the print and electronic sources of book reviews that are available at King's College Library. **If you need assistance with any of the following resources, please consult a reference librarian.**

Print            **Book Review Digest**. 1905 to present.

Arranged alphabetically by author of the book reviewed. Contains excerpts from selected reviews from approximately 75 American, Canadian, and British serials. Includes brief descriptive notes and quotations with exact references to periodicals in which the reviews appeared. Also provides references to other reviews. Has a cumulative index for books published from 1905 to 1974.

- Print            **Book Review Index.** 1965 to present.
- Gives author listings with abbreviated references to reviews found in more than 470 publications. Lists reviews for all types of books, including poetry, children's literature, textbooks, reference books, works in foreign languages, novels, periodicals, newspapers, and many other publications.
- Electronic Database    **Historical New York Times.** 1851 to 2005.
- Provides searchable full text for all issues since publication began. All articles and images are included.
- Electronic Database    **Lexis-Nexis Academic.** Mid-70s to present.
- Searches back more than 25 years. Indexes major national and international newspapers, magazines, and journals.
- Print            **New York Times Index.** 1851 to present.
- Reviews are listed under the subject heading "Book Reviews."
- Print            **Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature.** 1900-1996.
- Cumulative subject and author index to English language periodicals of general interest. Citations for book reviews are found after the main body of the index, listed alphabetically by the author's last name.

### **BOOK REVIEWS ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS**

If you have difficulty finding a review, try one of the specialized sources listed below. Print sources can be slow to review books; reviews may appear years after the book was published.

- Electronic Database    **Academic Search Premier.** Mid-'60s to present.
- Comprehensive database providing full text articles from more than 4,600 publications from a wide variety of disciplines. Also provides indexing and abstracts for more than 8,000 periodicals. Includes full text articles from many scholarly publications.
- Electronic Database    **America History and Life.** 1954 to present.
- Provides indexing and abstracts for books, periodicals, and dissertations on the history and culture of the United States and Canada. Historical coverage from prehistory to the present.
- Electronic Database    **ATLA Religion Database with ATLA Serials.** 1949 to present.
- Indexes thousands of articles and essays covering church history, theology, religion, and related subjects. Includes links to many full text articles and book reviews from more than 80 journals.

- Print **Business Periodicals Index**. 1958-1996.
- Book reviews are either in the main section of the index or in a separate section in the back of the index.
- Electronic Database **Business Source Premier**. 1965 to present
- Provides full text for 8,500 journals in business and related fields. Includes articles and indexing for some publications as far back as 1922.
- Print **Catholic Periodical & Literature Index**. 1930 to 1980.
- Book reviews are at the back of each issue.
- Electronic Database **Catholic Periodical & Literature Index**. 1981 to present.
- Indexes Catholic periodicals, books, newspapers, and papal documents.
- Electronic Database **CINAHL with Full Text**. 1981 to present.
- Comprehensive database providing indexing, citations, and full text for many of the most used publications in the areas of nursing and allied health. Includes full text for some journals dating back to 1982.
- Electronic Database **Communication and Mass Media Complete**. 1915 (for some titles) to present.
- Provides indexing and abstracts for over 600 magazines and journals in the field of communication. Full text is available for more than 240 of those publications.
- Electronic Database **Criminal Justice Periodical Index**. 1981 to present.
- Provides abstracts and indexing for over 230 U.S. and international criminal justice journals. Full text is included for 75 publications.
- Print **General Science Index**. 1978-1996.
- Reviews are listed at the back of each issue.
- Electronic Database **ERIC** (Educational Resource Information Center). 1950 to present.
- Provides access to educational literature. Includes indexing and abstracts for more than 1,000 education journals and full text for more than 2,200 digests.
- Electronic Database **Historical Abstracts**. 1954 to present.
- Indexes books, journals, and dissertations on the history of the world, excluding the United States and Canada. Historical coverage from 1450 to present.

Electronic Database	<b><u>Philosopher's Index</u></b> . 1940 to present. Indexes books and journals in philosophy and related fields.
Electronic Database	<b><u>PsycINFO</u></b> . 1872 to present. Indexes books, book chapters, journal articles, dissertations, and reports in psychology and related fields.
Electronic Database	<b><u>Science Direct (Elsevier)</u></b> . Approximately 1960 to present. Provides indexing and abstracts for peer-reviewed journals in the sciences. Free full text for articles published since January 2003, in health and life sciences only.
Electronic Database	<b><u>Science Full Text Select</u></b> . 1994 (for some titles) to present. Full text database providing complete articles from over 360 core journals in all science-related disciplines.
Print	<b><u>Social Sciences Index</u></b> . 1974-1996. Reviews are listed at the back of each issue.

When you find a reference (citation) to a book review, but do not have the full text of the article, your next step is to get a copy of the review itself. Here are some suggestions:

1. Use the **Online Catalog** to find out if the King's College Library owns the periodical that contains the desired review. (From the library's homepage, select "[Catalogs](#)" then [King's College Catalog](#). On the Basic Search screen, click on the drop-down menu and select "Periodical Alphabetical." Enter the title of the magazine, journal, or newspaper.)
2. If the title of the publication appears in the list, you will find it shelved in alphabetical order downstairs in the library. Microfilm issues of a particular title are shelved beside the print issues.
3. Try searching for the article online through **Google**. Using quotation marks, enter the title in the search box.
4. If you are unable to find the review online or in a periodical owned by King's, you may request it through interlibrary loan, or see a Reference Librarian for assistance.