

Information Competence for North American Studies

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Bonn University Library

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1. Research process

The Big 6 Skills

1. Task Definition

- 1.1 Define the information problem
- 1.2 Identify information needed

2. Information Seeking Strategies

- 2.1 Determine all possible sources
- 2.2 Select the best sources

3. Location and Access

- 3.1 Locate sources (intellectually and physically)
- 3.2 Find information within sources

4. Use of Information

- 4.1 Engage (e.g., read, hear, view, touch)
- 4.2 Extract relevant information

5. Synthesis

- 5.1 Organize from multiple sources
- 5.2 Present the information

6. Evaluation

- 6.1 Judge the product (effectiveness)
- 6.2 Judge the process (efficiency)



2. Information sources for North American Studies at Bonn University Library

2.1. Bonn University Library

- Access by Subject (Facheinstieg)
 - N.B.: Information sources for "North American Studies" can be found under the heading of "English Studies"
- Bibliographic search (*Literaturrecherche*)
 - Main catalogue (Hauptkatalog)
 - Databases (*Datenbanken*)
 - E-journals (elektronische Fachzeitschriften)
 - E-Books (Booksammlungen)
 - Meta search engine NRW (DigiBib-Suchportal)

2.2. Databases for Primary Sources

- Primary Sources = Original documents (e.g. autobiographies, diaries, e-mail, interviews, letters, speeches) or creative works (drama, novels, poetry etc.)
- Full text databases (Volltextdatenbank)
- Examples of important collections:
 - Early American Imprints
 - New York Times Archive
 - 19th Century U.S. Newspapers
 - America's Historical Newspapers
- See also other disciplines for relevant sources

2.3. Bibliographies for English Studies

- Secondary sources of information (<u>Fachbibliographie</u>) = Literature about the original documents or creative works
- MLA International Bibliography
 - Main focus: literature & language, 1920's onwards,
 2.3 million citations (updated monthly)

JSTOR

 Interdisciplinary e-journal archive with full text access, over 1 000 academic journals

Project Muse

 E-journal archive for humanities and social sciences with full text access, over 450 journals



3. Research techniques and strategies

3.1. Free text search

- Often the default setting
- Searches all available fields of the bibliographic record
- Search category: any word, all fields, keyword (Alle Felder, Freie Suche, Freitextsuche)
- Advantage: a very comprehensive search → largest possible number of results
- Disadvantage: very unspecific → possibly a lot of irrelevant/unwanted results

Search by Title – Definition

- Searching with the meaningful words from the title of a book or an article
- Search category: Title, Search in Title, Title keyword(s)
 (*Titelwort, Titelstichwort, Titel, Titel Stichwörter, Stichwort*)
 Unspecific words (e.g. Articles, prepositions, pronouns) are not indexed, therefore irrelevant for search

For example:

A companion to Victorian literature & culture

Phrase search

- Searching for a number of words in an exact order
- Search category: Find ... this exact wording or phrase (Google Advanced Search), Phrase search (*Titelanfang, Exakter Titel, Phrasensuche* ...)
- More often done by using quotation marks, e.g. "Victorian England"

An example from the main catalogue:

Crime fiction Title search: 38 hits

Exact title: 3 hits

Searching by subject (terms)

Index term/subject term/subject heading/descriptor = Pre-defined "controlled vocabulary" words assigned to describe the content of each item in a database or catalogue

Advantages

the results are really about your topic and once you know the subject term, everything about your specific topic should be listed under the same subject term

Disadvantages:

12

- The words used as subjects are often not what you would expect and you have to learn the "individual language" of a database
- general in nature and cannot address the contents of individual sections of a work, such as collected essays in a book

Thesaurus

- Thesaurus = controlled vocabulary in which concepts are represented by preferred terms, formally organized so that relationships between the concepts are made explicit (e.g. Narrower Term/Broader Term), and the preferred terms are accompanied by entries for synonyms or quasi-synonyms
- In Germany Schlagwortnormdatei (SWD) is used for subject indexing in the university libraries as well as the German National Library (DNB)
- Good databases have their own thesauri

3.2. Subject terms for English and American Studies

MLA Thesaurus structure:

Subject heading	The term or name chosen to describe the contents of the document
Used for	Alternative (nonpreferred) terms or names, which include synonyms, variant spellings, and older versions of the heading
Broader subject headings	More general terms or concepts
Related subject headings	Related terms or concepts
Narrower subject headings	More specific terms or concepts

MLA thesaurus example

Browsing: MLA International Bibliography	Thesaurus
united states	Browse
© Term Begins With C Term Contains (Relevancy Ranked
◆Back to List	
4Previous Next ▶	
Select term, then add to search using: OR	Add
United States	
Broader Terms	□ North America
Narrower Terms	Appalachia
	☐ Eastern United States
	☐ Middle Atlantic United States
	☐ Midwestern United States
	☐ Mississippi River
	☐ Mississippi Valley
	Missouri River
	Northeastern United States
	Northern United States
	Northwestern United States
	Rio Grande River (North America)
	South Central United States
	Southeastern United States
	Southern United States
	☐ Southwestern United States ☐ Western United States
Related Terms	Western Onited States America
Relateu Terris	☐ Canada-United States border
	☐ Mexico-United States border
	Pacific Northwest
See Also	See also: entries under individual states.

Truncation (or wildcard)

Truncation assists in creating searches with unknown characters and multiple spellings

Sometimes the term wildcard is used for replacing a single character

The <u>most common</u> symbol used for truncation is * (but this may vary from database to database)

- Truncation at the end of the word:
 america* finds words america, american, americans, americana, america's ...
- Truncation in the middle of the word:
 wom?n finds woman, women

Logical operators

AND: To retrieve records, where both of search terms are necessary

→ to narrow your search = to get fewer results

OR: To retrieve records, where both search terms are possible

→ to widen your search = to get more results

(AND) NOT: To exclude records with a certain term from your results

For example:

America AND 1930s

United States OR America

Cambridge AND NOT England

How to develop search strategies

- Analyse the components of your topic and find the appropriate search terms for these
- Use synonyms to broaden the search

Class presentation in American modern film						
Component 1: America United States	Component 2: Film Movie Cinema	Component 3: Social class Caste system Class*				

3.3. Evaluating your results

A search is always a balancing act between finding too much or too little.

Relevance = Number of relevant retrieved documents

Number of retrieved documents

Recall = Number of relevant retrieved documents

Number of relevant documents in the database

Relevance and Recall

relevant but and found not found

- If all the your results are relevant, there are probably further relevant titels in the database
- The more complete your search, the more irrelevant results are included in your result list

3.4. Too many or too few results

1) Too few results

- Check for source of errors:
 - Spelling mistakes
 - Too "neat" a truncation, too many logical operators, incorrect search logic
 - Truncation not at all possible
- To expand your search methods and search instruments:
 - Use all the possibilities of a the topical search
 - Find broader/related terms in the keyword/subject index
 - Consult further bibliographies
- Screen your result list for relevant items

Adopt applicable kewords or subject terms

Too few results: Improve your search strategy

If you get too few results, you can further incorporate the following elements to your search:

- Synonyms, technical terms
- Multilingual terms
- Plurals or adjectives
- Different spellings
- Broader, narrower and related terms

Too many results

- Screen your results for relevent items :
 - Are there keyword or subject terms that describe your topic better than the search terms you used?
 - → Use a subject/keyword term search instead
- Screen your results for irrelevent items:
 - Are there terms included, that do not match your topic?
 - Use NOT-operator to eliminate unwanted terms (but remember that you could be getting rid of many relevant items as well)
- Redefine your topic by narrowing it
- Add a another search term by using AND

3.5. Metasearch

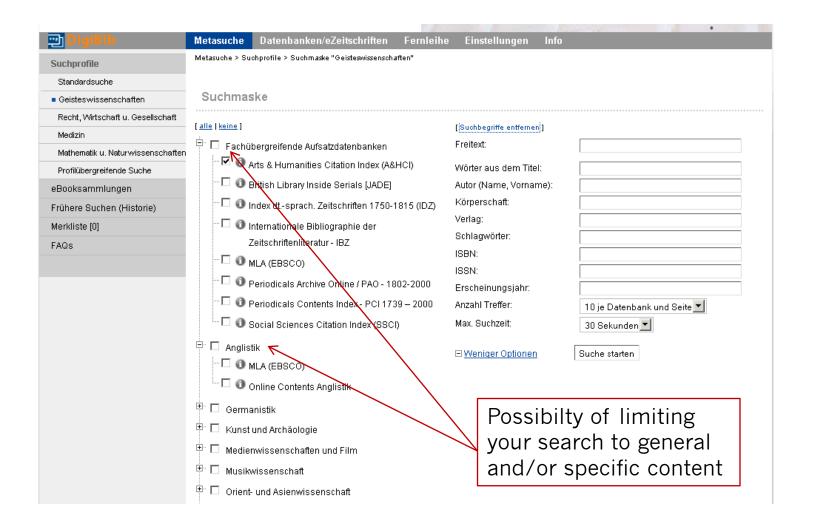
 The possibility to search several databases simultaneously

Digibib:

you are able to search databases, e-books, e-journals and other contents available in NRW simultaneously

- Standard search
- Searching according to your field of study

Digibib search interface



KVK – Karlsruhe Virtual Catalog

 The possibility to search simultaneously several library catalogues in Germany and/or abroad

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Karlsruher Institut für Technologie	KIT-Bibliothek		tueller Katalog Isruhe Virtual C	atalog	KVK
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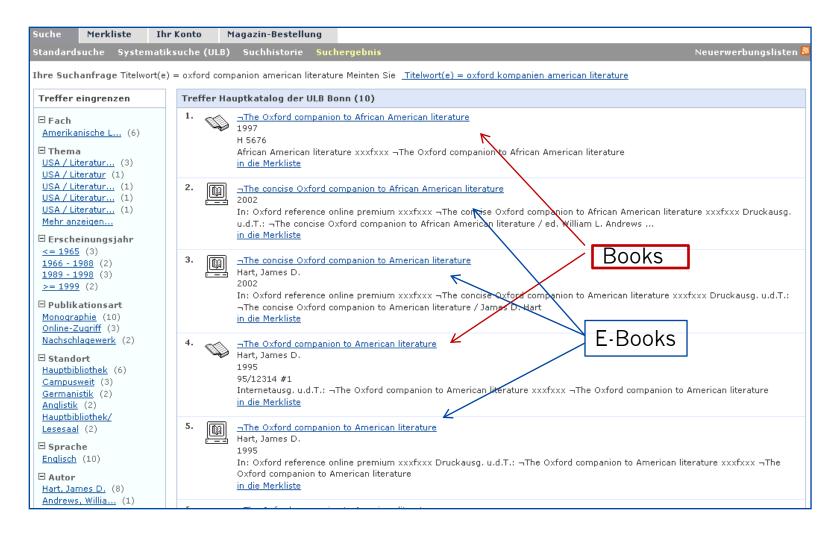


4. Availability

Availability

- 4.1. The main catalogue (Hauptkatalog)
 - Books, E-Books
- 4.2. ZDB & EZB
 - Articles
- 4.3. Link resolver
- 4.4. Interlibrary loan

4.1. The main catalogue

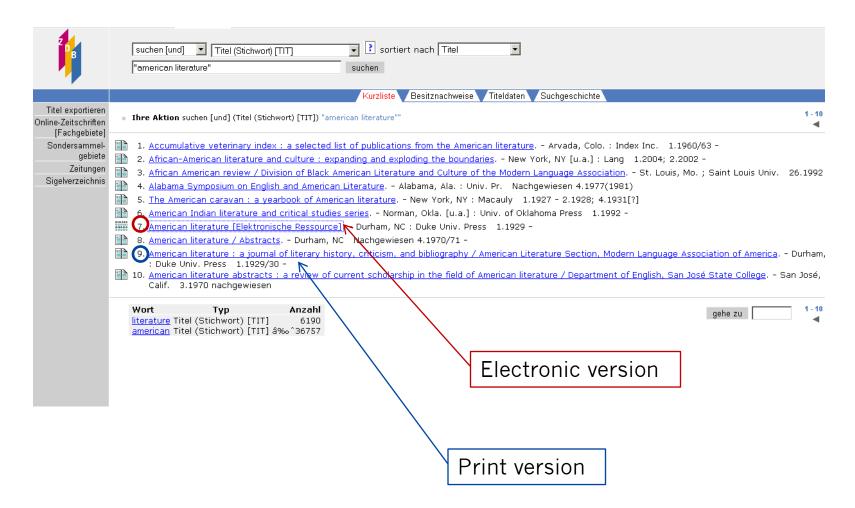


Availability of library holdings

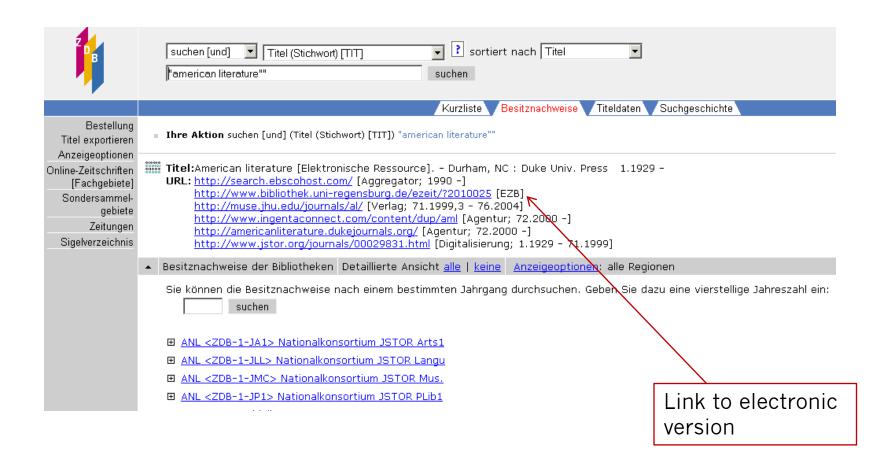
Wegweiser

Suche Merkliste **Ihr Konto** Magazin-Bestellung Standardsuche Systematiksuche (ULB) Suchhistorie Suchergebnis Detailanzeige Ihre Suchanfrage Schlagwort (dt.) = literatur AND Schlagwort (dt.) = amerika Meinten Sie Schlagwort (dt.) = literature AND Schlagwort (dt.) = america Hauptkatalog der ULB Bonn (3/1562) 1 « « » » 1 Between the urge to know and the need to deny trauma and ethics in contemporary British and American literature' Verlagsort, Verlag, Erscheinungsjahr: Heidelberg, Winter, 2011 Umfang: 268 S.: Ill. Schlagwort 1: USA, Literatur, Psychisches Trauma < Motiv >, Ethik < Motiv >, Geschichte 1950-2010, Aufsatzsammlung Schlagwort 2: Englisch, Literatur, Psychisches Trauma < Motiv>, Ethik < Motiv>, Geschichte 1950-2010, Aufsatzsammlung ISBN: 978-3-8253-5884-6 22 Volltext/Inhaltsverz. u.a.: Link zum Dokument [Kontakt: X:MVB; text/html; Inhaltstext] Volltext/Inhaltsverz. u.a.: Link zum Dokument [; application/pdf; Inhaltsverzeichnis;] Volltext/Inhaltsverz. u.a.: Link zum Dokument [Between the urge to know and the need to deny; Zusätzliche Angaben] in die Merkliste I übergeordnete Titel aufrufen. mehr zum Titel Exemplare Verfügbarkeit Hinweis Zweigstelle Signatur Status 2011/6952 ausleihbai Hauptbibliothek Adenauerallee / Freihandmagazin 1. UG

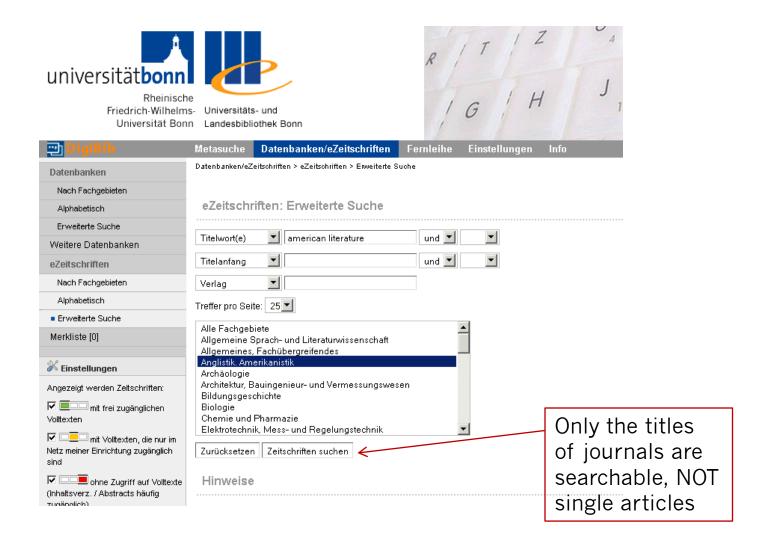
4.2 ZDB result list



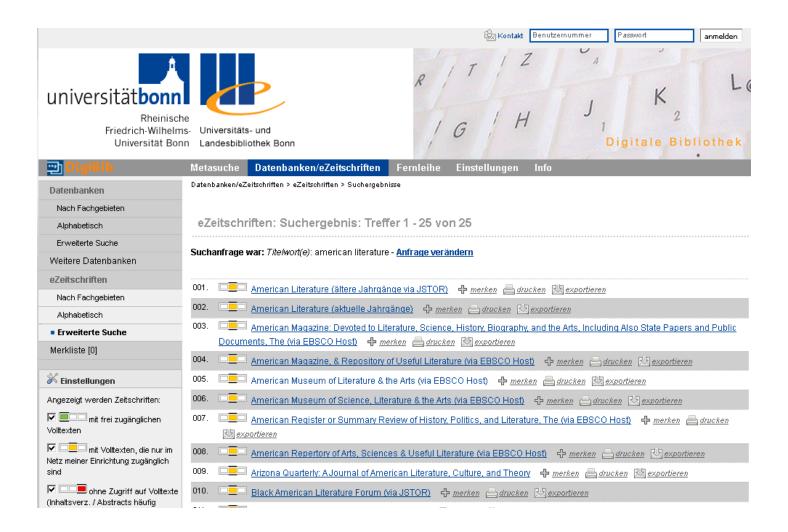
ZDB links directly into EZB



EZB search interface



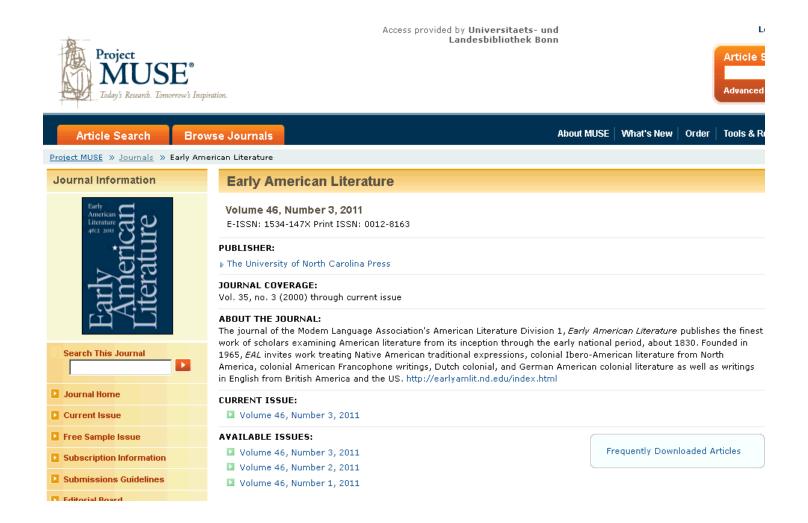
EZB result list



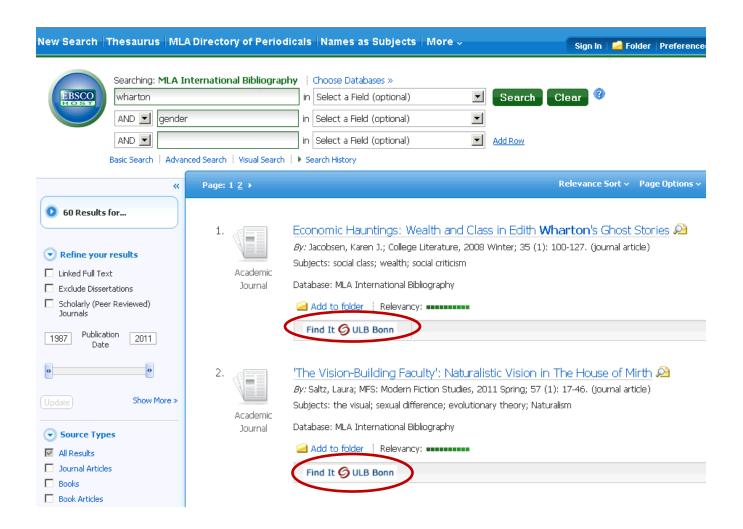
EZB single result



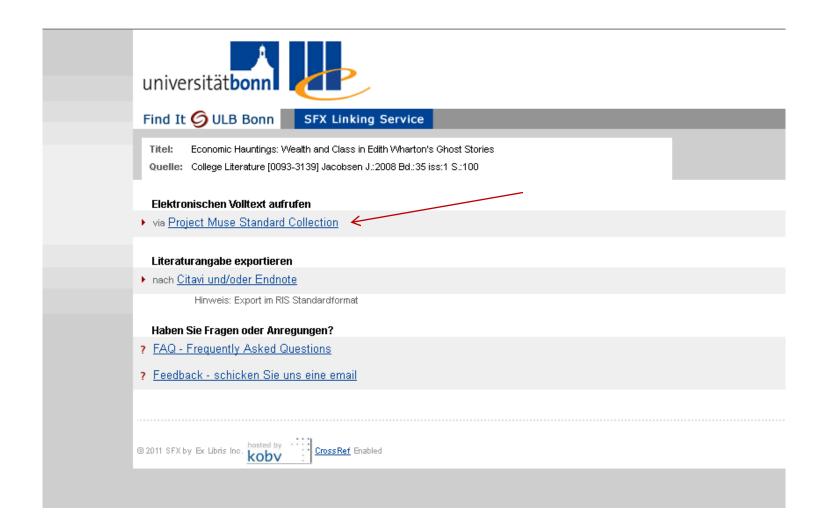
EZB link to the full texts



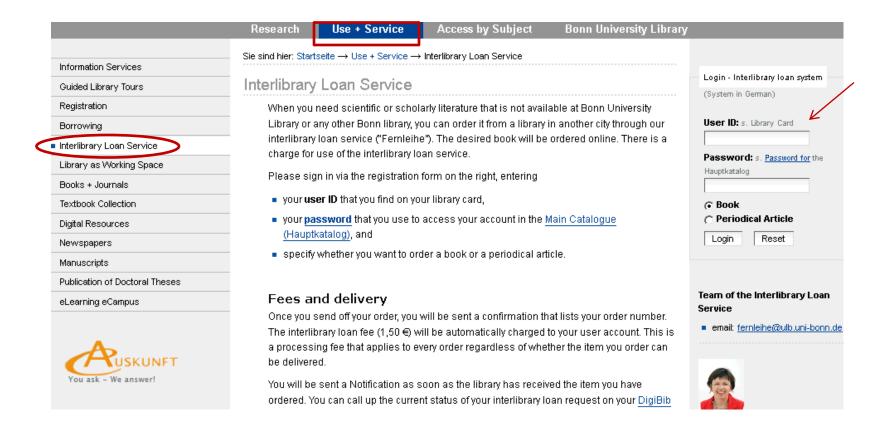
4.3. Link resolver



Following the link resolver



4.4. Service interface for interlibrary loan





5. Evaluating information resources

5.1. Academic quality of publications

- Academic quality of <u>printed publications</u>:
 - Target group of the publication
 - Academic apparatus (e.g. footnotes, bibliography) present?
 - Is the information up-to-date?
 - Renowned author, institution or journal

Academic quality of websites

- Author or anonymous? What information is available in website credits (mostly under the heading "About")
- Website operator: Commercial or academic institution?
 (It might be possible to draw conclusions from the IP address)
- Academic level of information, up-dating?
- Where do the links lead?
- Adequate style of writing
- Clear layout? Are multimedial-elements functionally appropriate?

Deep Web

- Definition: The amount of information, that cannot be found by using search engines
- Invisible net is several times bigger than the visible web
- Database contents (e.g. Library catalogues and databases) as well as other lincensed contents that are not freely available on the Internet
- → Search engines for academic search purposes have only a very limited use

5.2. The "Google Problem"

Advantages for academic search purposes:

Google analyses the table of contents, whereas the Bonn main catalogue does not

- → finds relevant titles not indexed in a database
- Disadvantage for searching literature:
 - The results contain a lot of non-literature information
 - Rudimentary or incorrent bibliographical information that often complicate the localisation of the title in a library

Conclusion: A good tool for additional searches, but not as the main instrument

Google - Example

Web Images Videos Maps Shopping Books Mail more ▼

Web History | Search setti

















Bonn

Change location

All results

Sites with images Wonder wheel Timeline More text

More search tools

toni morrison beloved

Search Advanced search

About 1,440,000 results (0.14 seconds)

Toni Morrison: Beloved Q

21 May 1997 ... Beloved, Toni Morrison's Nobel Prize winning Novel about the Effects of Slavery, Includes reviews, essays, articles, study resources. www.luminarium.org/.../tonimorrison/beloved.htm - Cached - Similar

Beloved (novel) - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia Q

Beloved (1987) is a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Toni Morrison. "The Bonds of Love and the Boundaries of Self in Toni Morrison's Beloved. ...

Plot summary - Major themes - Film adaptation - Legacy en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beloved (novel) - Cached - Similar

Toni Morrison - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia Q

In 1987 Morrison's novel Beloved became a critical success. When the novel ... en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toni Morrison - Cached - Similar

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Google - Results

- Information about the author, interviews
- Information/Table of contents about the book
- Reviews
- Help for home work (abstract, analysis)
- Possibility to order from an Online-bookshop

→ Lack of bibliographical information!

Preferably use Google Scholar ...

- An academic search engine for all the academic disciplines
- Offers source and full texts as well as bibliographical information from library catalogues
- Less inaccurate results than Google
- "Related articles" = trying to find similar results → not always comprehensible
- Partially "Check@ULB Bonn": Possibility to search the concrete collections of Bonn university library, but the results not always reliable
- Sometimes links to the full text

Google Scholar – Example

Web Images Videos Maps Shopping Books Mail more ▼ Scholar Preferences Advanced Scholar Search Google scholar from morrison reloved Search Scholar Articles and patents ▼ anytime ▼ include citations Create email alert Results 1 - 10 of about 12,500, (0 Did vou mean: toni morrison beloved IPDFI The Seams Can't Show: An Interview with Toni Morrison IPDFI from istor.org J Bakerman - Black American Literature Forum, 1978 - JSTOR Fulltext@ULB Bonn ... I was never able to resolve that, so I used both. ... As she has hoped to do, she does "remove the cataracts" to show us, the people, the power we have-for evil ... The reason they do lies in Toni Morrison's willingness to explore the limits of emotion and then to think long and deeply ... Cited by 49 - Related articles - All 2 versions Singing the blues/reclaiming jazz: Toni Morrison and cultural mourning R Rubenstein - Journal article by Roberta Rubenstein; Mosaic (..., 1998 - questia.com ... to mourning rituals and other structures that enable the process of grieving to resolve. ... Mourning names the process through which losses might be grieved and resolved; both the ... Naming and embodying that grief. Toni Morrison expresses the responsibility that she feels for "all ... Cited by 16 - Related articles - BL Direct - All 2 versions воркі beloved communities: Solidarity and difference in fiction by Michael Ondaatie. Toni Morrison and Joy Kodawa E Kella - 2000 - diva-portal.org ... Title: beloved communities: Solidarity and difference in fiction by Michael Ondaatje, Toni Morrison, and Joy Kogawa. Department: Uppsala University, Humanistisk ... 0562-2719; 110. Year of publ.: 2000. URI: urn:nbn;se;uu:diva-1064. Permanent link; http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn ... Cited by 17 - Related articles - Cached - Check@ULB Bonn - Library Search - All 4 versions рстгатиом Giving Body to the Word: The Maternal Symbolic in Toni Morrison's Beloved J Wyatt - Critical Essays on Toni Morrison's" Beloved Cited by 6 - Related articles - All 2 versions [PDF] The Ancestor as Foundation in Their Eyes Were Watching God and Tar Baby [PDF] from jstor.org SP Paguet - Callaloo, 1990 - JSTOR ... Nanny wants to remove the element of risk and chance from Janie's life and, with this ... But sexual jealousy also surfaces with Tea Cake, and here it is less easily resolved. ... In Toni Morrison's Tar

Baby, an ancestral relationship with folk culture is lost to Jadine Childs through the ...

Cited by 22 - Related articles - Check@ULB Bonn - All 3 versions

Google's weaknesses compared to information provided by a library

- Provides no or incomplete bibliographical information
- Does not distinquish between primary and secondary literature
- No sorting of the results possible, e.g. according to the year of publication
- Does not offer a topical search (no subject terms/ classification) or other specific search fields

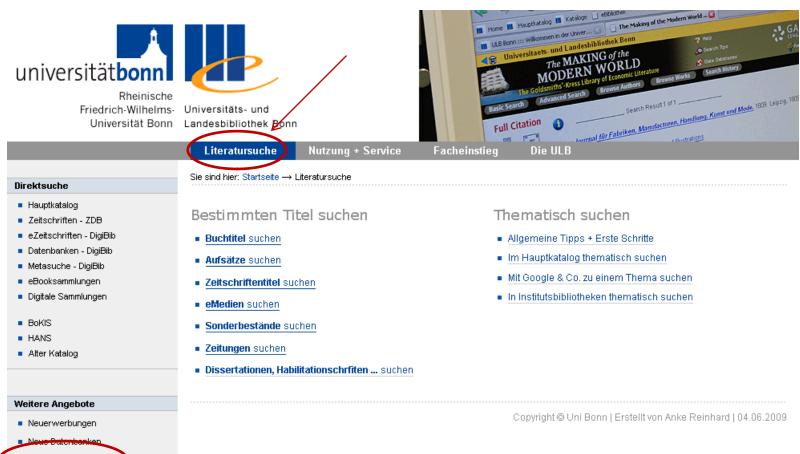
5. 3. Portals (Fachportale)

- ViFa Anglo-American culture at http://www.sub.uni-goettingen.de/vlib/lit/
 - Responsible institution: Niedersächsischen Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen
 - Sponsored by the German Research Foundation (die Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft)
 - Access to information and services regardless of the physical form of the information source
 - The most comprehensive academic collection of links in the field of English and American Studies



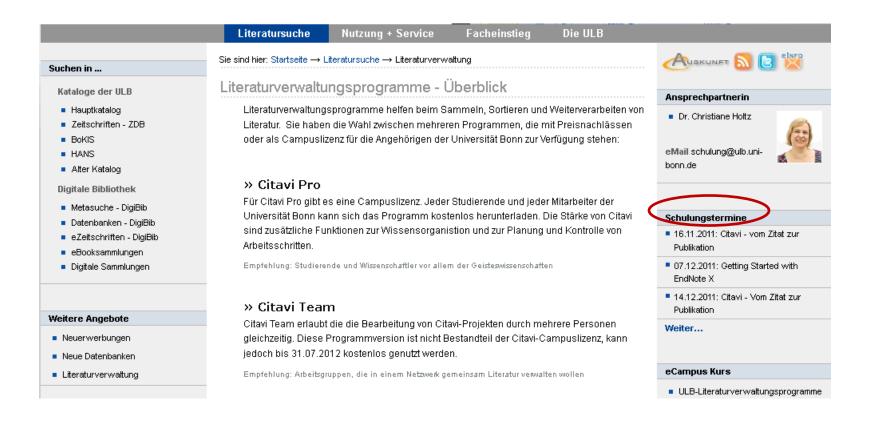
6. Processing bibliographical information

6. Further processing for your bibliographic information



Literaturverwaltung

Citavi and Endnote: campus licence and instruction



Contact the subject librarian

Dr. Alice Rabeler or Anu Hirvonen

Universitätsbibliothek

Adenauerallee 39-41

Büro R. 0.013

Tel. 0228/73-1997

Fax 0228/73-7546

Email: alice.rabeler@ulb.uni-bonn.de

anu.hirvonen@ulb.uni-bonn.de

We will gladly help you with your literature search!