

Writing 125: The Novels of Jane Austen

Key Library Resources
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tips to get you started

- **brainstorm about the concepts in your topic**
 - develop synonyms and related terms to enrich your searching
- **read a general essay or article** in an encyclopedia to get an overview
 - it may quickly help you narrow your topic and find a few key resources
- **look for books** on your topic or for chapters in more general books
- **look for articles in indexes and databases** - articles are more narrowly focused than books, and your search can be more specific
- **use NExpress or Interlibrary Loan (ILL)** to get material from other libraries – request early!
- **build your bibliography from what you have**
 - find more sources in the footnotes & bibliographies of each source you read

Get an Overview

- ***All Things Austen: An Encyclopedia of Austen's World***
 - Clapp Reference PR4036 .A275 2005
- ***Encyclopedia of Romanticism: Culture in Britain 1780s-1830s***
 - Clapp Reference DA529 E53 1982
- ***Encyclopedia of the Romantic Era, 1760-1850.*** (2 volumes)
 - Clapp Reference NX 452.5 R 64 E53 2004
- ***What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew: ...The Facts of Daily Life in Nineteenth-Century England*** – Clapp Reserves PR468.S6 P66 1993
- ***A Jane Austen Encyclopedia*** -- Clapp Reference PR4036 A28 1988

Find Primary Source Material

Primary sources are original, uninterpreted information, such as firsthand accounts of events in letters, diaries, interviews, or historical news reportage; original works of fiction, art, or music; research reports or data; testimony, speeches, etc.



How to Read a Primary Source - Patrick Rael, Bowdoin College

- [Times of London, 1765-1985](#) - search for articles about culture, politics, etc. contemporary to Austen's time.
- [British Periodicals](#) - full text facsimiles of more than 160 British journals from the late 17th to the early 20th century, covering all disciplines
- [Early English Books Online \(EEBO\)](#)

Find Books (secondary source material)

1. Search the [Wellesley Library Catalog](#)
 - do a **subject search** on an author or historical figure for books **about** them
 - try different keywords (synonyms) to find more on your topic
 - examine your results and click on the title of a book that looks good
 - look at the subject terms in the **full record view** - follow the link to find more on that topic – for example:
 - [Married women -- Great Britain -- History](#)
 - [Women -- Legal status, laws, etc. -- Great Britain](#)
 - [Property -- Great Britain -- History](#)

More options for getting books we don't have at Wellesley:

- Request a book through NExpress: click on  in our catalog to request a book quickly if our copy is checked out (1-3 days)
- Search [WorldCat](#) to find material we don't own, click on  and request through ILL (interlibrary loan) – **allow up to 2 weeks for delivery of books. Articles come electronically in a few days, to your Wellesley email account.**
- In a hurry? Get a [BLC card](#) and borrow the book directly from another academic library in Boston (such as MIT or BU)

Find Articles (secondary source material)

- use **synonyms** and **truncation** to find all the ways your topic is expressed - computers are very literal ☺
- combine multiple concepts using AND for best results
- *sample topic:* women and property rights in Regency England
 - (woman or women or female) - synonyms
 - (property or own* or possess*) - truncation
 - (regency or nineteenth century england)
- [JSTOR](#) – key scholarly journals but only up to the last 3-5 years
- [Academic Search Complete](#) – **scholarly & popular** journal articles in all fields
- [MLA Bibliography](#) – scholarly articles on all aspects of literature
- [Historical Abstracts](#) – articles on all periods of world history
 - cool feature: limit by time period
 - use the “find it @ Wellesley” button to get the full text of the article

More Help

- [Citing Sources](#) – includes links to examples in various citation styles
- Remember, **you can always call or email me** if you get stuck or want more suggestions!

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