

# Writing 125: Caught Between Cultures

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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** - generally articles are more narrowly focused than books, and your search can be more specific
- **use 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

- [Literature Resource Center](#) – excellent overviews of writers' themes and influences
- *Jewish American Women Writers* – Clapp Reference PS 153 .J4 J48 1994
- *Columbia Guide to Asian American Literature Since 1945* – Clapp Reference PS 153 .A84 C65 2006
- Browse **more reference books** on ethnic authors in the PS 153 section

## Find Books

1. Search the [Wellesley Library Catalog](#) – **a few tips:**
  - do a **subject search** on an author or historical figure for books **about** them
  - 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
    - ⇒ [Asian-American youth -- Ethnic identity](#)
    - ⇒ [Asian American youth -- Social conditions](#)
    - ⇒ [Stereotypes \(Social psychology\) -- United States -- Case studies](#)
2. Click on  in our catalog to request a book quickly if our copy is checked out
3. Search [WorldCat](#) to find material we don't own, click on  and request through ILL (interlibrary loan) – **allow up to 2 weeks for delivery**
4. 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

## Tips to improve your results:

- use **synonyms** to find all the ways your topic is expressed: (female or gender or woman or women) rather than just “women”
- use **truncation** to find all the variations of a word: raci\* for racial, racially, racism, etc - computers are very literal ☺
- combine multiple concepts using AND for best results  
*sample topic:* stereotypes about Asian American youth  
*sample search:* (teen\* or adolescent\* or youth or student\*)  
AND (asian American or Vietnamese American or ...)  
AND (stereotyp\* or ???)
- [Academic Search Complete](#) –scholarly & **popular** journal articles in all fields
- [Literature Resource Center](#) – scholarly articles
- [JSTOR](#) – key scholarly journals but only up to the last 3-5 years

**Discipline-specific sources** – use the  button to get the full text

- [MLA Bibliography](#) – literary criticism covering all genres and all cultures
- [SocINDEX with Full Text](#) –articles on sociological topics
- [PsycINFO](#) – all aspects of psychology and psychosocial development
- [Ethnic Newswatch](#) – articles from Asian American, Latino, Jewish American, and Native American newspapers
- [LGBT Life with Full Text](#) – lesbian, gay and transgender issues

# Find Book Reviews & Biographical Info

- [Book Review Digest Plus](#) for books published **after 1983**
- [Book Review Index Online Plus](#) for books published **after 1965**
- Check our guide to [finding Book Reviews](#) for material published **pre-1965**
- [Biography Resource Center](#)
- [American National Biography](#)

# More Help

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