

FINDING BOOK REVIEWS

Identify sources of book reviews and find them in the ACC libraries

What is a Book Review?

A review of a non-fiction book analyzes the book, pointing out the primary topics and/or arguments of the book and how well, or poorly, the author supports those assertions. We also expect a review to cover an author's credentials for writing on the topic. Usually book reviews compare the book being written about to similar titles on the topic. Reviewers sometimes point out omissions they think should have been covered and any biases they noted.

If you are reviewing a fiction book, find sources of in-depth analyses of fiction titles in this Library Guide: "**Finding Literary Criticism**".

Keys to success:

Know the publication date, edition of the book and the author's name.

This information can be found in the book itself or in the library's Catalog.

Is your book the first (1st) edition of the title or a later edition? Generally only the first edition of a book gets reviewed.

Verify the library has access to the full-text of the periodical that has the review.

The ACC libraries offer thousands of periodical articles in electronic resources. If you're using one of these online resources it probably includes the full text of the review you need. However, if you cannot find a review in one of our electronic resources, ask a librarian to assist you in finding what you need.



Online Periodical Indexes

General indexes to periodicals usually list book reviews, which are published in many magazines, journals, and newspapers. Common indexes are *Academic Search Complete* or *MasterFILE Premier*, but there are many others.

- Go to the library homepage (library.austincc.edu) and click on "Articles & Research."
- Then click on "Articles & More" and go to the one you want.
- If you are off campus, your ACC eID and password will give access to these indexes.

Generally, in these indexes, a search for the book's title should bring up reviews. Placing quotation marks around the title works best. EX: "bury my heart at wounded knee".

Remember, these indexes cover only so many years. If your book was published earlier and these indexes don't work, speak with a librarian.

Browsing Through Reviews

If you want to look at some sample book reviews, look at any issue of the following:

For popular books

- *Newsweek* or
- *Time*

For more scholarly reviews check here:

- *New York Times Book Review* or
- *American Historical Review*

Many magazines and journals offer book reviews. Ask a librarian how to search for those efficiently.

Not Finding a Review?

Ask the librarian for help if you don't find a review. There are always additional places to look.