

Theater Arts and Drama Subject Guide

The University of Arizona Library

Compiled by Bob Diaz 2007

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[Background Information](#) [Finding Articles](#) [Finding Books](#) [Play Texts & Reviews](#)
[Musical Theater](#) [Stage Design and Costume](#) [People & Organizations](#) [Web Resources](#)
[Further Research](#) [Course Research Pages & Reserves](#) [The World of the Play](#)

Background Information

[Dictionaries and Encyclopedias](#) ; [Research Guides](#); [Chronologies and Histories](#)

Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

The Batsford Dictionary of Drama. Main Ref. PN 1625 H62 1988 Definitions of terms used in the theatre and by theatre critics.

Cambridge Guide to Theatre. Main Ref. PN2035 .C27 1995. Covers world theatre and includes entries for individual countries, names of theatre personnel, theatres, acting companies, genres of theatre. and wide variety of terms. No entries for play titles included.

Dictionary of the Performing Arts. Main Library PN1579 .M66 1999

Dictionary of the Theatre: Terms, Concepts, Analysis. Main Ref. PN2035 .P2913 1998.

Encyclopedia Britannica ONLINE Provides concise as well as scholarly articles on a wide range of topics. Useful as a starting point for basic information.

International Dictionary of Theatre. Main Ref. PN 2035 I49 1992 Vol. 1: Plays. Contains entries for over 620 plays, with a critical essay on each. Vol. 2: Playwrights. Major dramatists, with a summary of their lives, a list of works, and a list of critical studies about the playwrights. Vol. 3: Actors, directors, and designers. Brief biography with chronological list of performances.

International Dictionary of Theatre Language. Main Ref. PN2035 .I5 1985. Defines 10,000 English terms and 5,000 foreign terms. Covers all areas of drama, theatre production, acting technology, management, among others. Entries written by scholars in the field.

McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of World Drama: An International Reference Work in Five Volumes. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1984.

Has biographies of dramatists, summaries of plays, and descriptions of national dramas covering the ancient Greeks and Romans to the twentieth century. PN 1625 M3 1984 Main Reference

Oxford Companion to American Theatre. Main Ref. PN2220 .B6 2004. Provides paragraph length information for a wide range of terms used relating to theatre in the U.S.

Oxford Encyclopedia of Theatre and Performance Main Ref. PN2035 .O94 2003 2vols. International in scope, includes definitions of terminology, biographies, concepts, theories and brief histories of theatre in some cities and countries. Includes a timeline of theatre history, a selective bibliography of important works related to theatre history. No plays are listed.

SSP Online Glossary of Theatre Terms Provides brief descriptions of terms used in the theater.

Theatre crafts.com Glossary of Technical Theatre Terms. This online glossary, produced in Great Britain, contains over 1500 terms and is searchable in a number of ways.

The World Encyclopedia of Contemporary Theatre. Main Ref. PN1861 .W67 1994 6 volumes. Covers theatre in Europe, the Americas, Africa, the Arab world, and Asia/the Pacific since 1945--altogether 150 countries. Topics discussed for each country include theatre history, musical theatre, design,, criticism, theatre space and architecture, and further reading. Volume six includes an extensive bibliography and cumulative index.

Research Guides

American Theater and Drama Research: An Annotated Guide to Information Sources, 1945-1990. Main Ref. PN 2266.3 S52 1991. This slim volume describes some essential print sources necessary for conducting research in theater and drama.

A Guide to Reference and Bibliography for Theatre Research. Main Library stacks. PN1620.A1 B34 1983. This slim volume, while a bit dated, is very useful for finding basic reference resources, particularly American and British materials.

The performing arts: a guide to the reference literature. Main Ref. PN 1584 .S56 1994
A handy tool to identify guides, dictionaries, encyclopedias, directories, indexes, relating to the performing arts.

Popular entertainment research : how to do it and how to use it. Main Library Ref. PN1576 .P78 1992. This useful resources covers film, theater, popular music and broadcast media. Also includes an introduction to research methods in these areas.

Theatre sources dot com : a complete guide to online theatre and dance resources. Main Library PN2052 .C38 2001

Theatre Studies Research Guide.(Yale University) A comprehensive, scholarly web site for theater research. Incorporates both print and online resources.

Chronologies and Histories

20th Century Theatre.Main Ref. PN2189 .L65 1983. A chronological record of theatrical developments in Great Britain and the U.S. Coverage 1900-1983. Includes information on premieres, revivals and repertoires, births/deaths/debuts and theaters/productions.

Cambridge History of American Theatre. 3vols. Main Library stacks. PN 2221 C37 1998. Authoritative 3 volume set that examines the theater in context, structure and management, plays and playwrights, actors, scenography, etc.

A Chronological Outline of World Theatre.Main Library stacks. PN2101 .M47 1992

History of the Theatre, 9th ed. by Oscar G. Brockett. Main Ref. PN2101 .B68 2003. Provides an excellent overview of the theatre from its beginnings through the end of the 20th century. Includes a selective bibliography and index.

Modern British, Irish, and American Drama: A Descriptive Chronology, 1865-1965.
Carpenter, Charles A.

Finding Articles (drama criticism) in Indexes

See also *Play Texts and Reviews* for finding reviews of plays.

Academic Search Complete (Available only to UA Students, Faculty, & Staff)
Multidisciplinary database that includes some full-text articles.

Arts & Humanities Citation Index (Available only to UA Students, Faculty, & Staff)
Multidisciplinary database through cited authors.

Humanities International Complete
Indexes literature in many areas of the humanities including language and literature, folklore, linguistics, performing arts and classical studies. (1984 to present; in print as Humanities Index, 1974 to present)

International Index to the Performing Arts (IIPA) (Available only to UA Students, Faculty, & Staff)
Indexes more than 200 international performing arts periodicals and also indexes performing arts related articles and obituaries appearing in The New York Times and The Washington Post. Dance, film, drama/theater, stagecraft, broadcast arts, comedy, storytelling, pantomime, puppetry, magic. Contains some full-text articles, but mostly citations with abstracts.

Literature Online Contains over 800,000 records covering monographs, periodical articles, critical editions of literary works, book reviews, collections of essays and doctoral dissertations

published anywhere in the world from 1920 onwards. All aspects and periods of English literature are covered. British, American and Commonwealth writing are all represented. Coverage is international, including material in languages other than English. Includes over 100 full-text journals.

MLA Bibliography 1956- (Internet access available only to UA Students, Faculty, & Staff) or - Z 7006 .M64 Main Ref. & Main Stacks

Look under nationality and time period for each playwright. The Firstsearch database covers from 1963-present. Indexes monographs, working papers, proceedings, bibliographies, and articles from periodicals and books on literary criticism, linguistics, and folklore.

Other sources for finding drama criticism

American Drama Criticism: interpretations, 1890-1977 PS 332 A43 Main Ref; supplement I (1984); supplement II (1989); supplement III (1992)

Lists "interpretations of American play published since 1890 in books, periodicals, and as monographs.

Best Plays of...and year book of the drama in America. PN 6112 .B45 Main Stacks
Sections include 1) Digests with critical comments on selected plays 2) Title list of plays produced in New York giving number of performances, theater, cast and brief outline of plot; 3) Plays produced outside of New York 4) Shakespeare festivals 5) Statistics of runs 6) List of actors with place and date of birth 7) Prizes and awards. Companion index is Directory of the American theater, 1894-1971 PN6112 .B4524 Main Reference which indexes the complete series of Best plays theater yearbooks.

Contemporary American Theater Critics PN 1707.9 C6 Main Stacks

An anthology of critical essays about theatre and theatre performances by leading American critics, emphasizing the work of regional critics. Arranged by critic name with a play/musical title index.

Critical Survey of Drama: English Language Series PR 623 .C75 1994 Main Ref

Includes critical essays with bibliographies on major dramatists from Marlowe on. Companion volume is **Critical Survey of Drama: Foreign Language Series** PN 1625 .C74 1986 Main Ref, which includes critical essays representing plays and identifying themes and characteristics employed by more than 170 dramatists ranging from Aeschylus in 400 B.C. to the contemporary Austrian Peter Handke..

Drama Criticism. PN 1601 .D59 Main Ref

A first stop for assembled critical commentary on the world's most renowned dramatists who represent a range of nationalities and time periods. Each entry includes when possible 1) brief biographical data and portrait of the playwright 2) background information about debates surrounding the works 3) list of principle works 4) author commentary on own work or art of playwriting 4) overview essays 5) in-depth discussion of selected individual plays 6) bibliographical citations of sources used and further reading material. Only 12-15 entries per volume.

Drama Criticism: A Checklist to Interpretation since 1940 of English and American Plays , 2 vol. / Arthur Coleman and Gary R. Tyler. Denver, A. Swallow [1966-71]
Z 5781 .C65 Main Reference

Volume 1 covers English and American plays since 1940 and vol. 2 covers classical and continental plays since 1940. Lists criticism in books and periodicals under dramatist A-Z.

Dramatic criticism index; a bibliography of commentaries on playwrights from Ibsen to the avant-garde.Z 5781 .B8 Main

Compiled list of nearly 12,000 critical articles in English on over 300 playwrights taken from books and periodicals. Largely confined to 20th century writers. Includes an index of play titles and critics.

European Drama criticism, 1900-1975 Z 5781 .P2 1977 Main Reference

Excludes Shakespeare, arranged A-Z by playwright, then by play, then by critic.

Modern Drama: A Checklist of Critical Literature on Twentieth Century Plays Z 5781 .A35 Main Reference

This is an unannotated bibliography of over 9000 entries arranged A-Z under playwright. General studies are followed by studies of individual plays.

Modern Drama Scholarship and Criticism, 1966-1980 & 1981-1990: An International Bibliography. Main Ref. PN1851 .C37 A classified bibliography containing over 27,000 entries. Emphasis on drama and dramatists rather than theater and performance. International in scope. Bibliography is arranged by nationality of the playwright. Within each national group, playwrights are listed alphabetically.

Finding Books

ONLINE CATALOGS:

University of Arizona Library Catalog. Use this source for finding books owned by the University of Arizona Libraries. The catalog is searchable by author, title, subject or keyword.

Library of Congress. A catalog of records representing books, serials, computer files, manuscripts, cartographic materials, music, sound recordings, and visual materials. Useful for researchers looking for hard to find information. Some materials available through Interlibrary Loan.

Worldcat A catalog of records for all type of material cataloged by libraries throughout the world. Includes records for manuscripts written as early as the 12th century as well as records for books, journals, software, etc. created last week. This database is updated daily. Some materials available through Interlibrary Loan.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES:

International Bibliography of Theatre. Main Ref. Z6935 .I53 Useful source for locating information about all essential components and personalities related to theater. Identifies books and periodicals published throughout the world. Entries are classified by subject, with thousands of references to books, articles, dissertations, and other theater documents.

Play Texts, Reviews and Plot Summaries

[Play texts online](#); [Play texts-indexes](#); [Reviews](#) ; [Plot Summaries](#)

PLAY TEXTS--ONLINE

20th Century Drama (Available only to UA Students, Faculty and Staff) Contains nearly 2,500 published plays from throughout the English-speaking world, covering the history of modern drama from the 1890s to the present day. Coverage: 1890's-present.

20th Century North American Drama (Available only to UA Students, Faculty, & Staff) Major American and Canadian plays from the twentieth century. Coverage: 1900-1999

American Drama, 1714-1915 (Available only to UA Students, Faculty, & Staff) Contains more than 1,100 dramatic works from the early eighteenth century up to the beginning of the twentieth century.

Asian American Drama (Available only to UA Students, Faculty & Staff) Asian American Drama brings together more than 250 plays, along with related biographical, production, and theatrical information.

Black Drama, 1850-present (Available only to UA Students, Faculty & Staff) Black Drama contains the full text of 1,200 plays written from the mid-1800s to the present. by more than 100 playwrights from North America, English-speaking Africa, the Caribbean, and other African diaspora countries.

Comedias (Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc.) Includes links to Hispanic dramas, organized by playwright. Other Hispanic theater resources are also available at this site.

English Drama (Available only to UA Students, Faculty and Staff) English Drama contains more than 3,900 plays in verse and prose from the late thirteenth century to the early twentieth. In addition to works by major dramatists English Drama includes the dramatic writings of many more neglected writers long inaccessible in print form. Coverage: 1300-1900.

EServer Drama Collection This site contains a collection of original plays and screenplays, criticism and links to other sites concerned with theatre. It publishes both classic and contemporary works.

Latino Literature: Poetry, Drama and Fiction (Available only to UA Student, Faculty and Staff) Although the collection includes materials from the Nineteenth Century, the vast majority

of the materials are from the Chicano Renaissance to the present. The three major groups are represented, Chicanos, Puerto Rican and Cubans, as well as other regions of the Americas.

Literature Online (Available only to UA Students, Faculty, & Staff) Full text database. Contains English and American literature, including poetry, drama and fiction.

North American Theater Online (Available only to UA Students, Faculty and Staff) Contains tens of thousands of bibliographic detail records for people, places, theatres, productions, production companies, and more, drawing from multiple sources. Covers everything related to the North American stage from the 1600s to the present.

North American Women's Drama (Available only to UA Students, Faculty and Staff) Brings together more than 1,500 plays, along with related biographical, production, and theatrical information. Coverage: colonial times and will span the 19th and 20th centuries to the present.

Shakespeare--Online Lists the complete online works at MIT and Bartlett's Shakespearean Quotations.

World Wide Web Virtual Library of Play Texts Search by author.

PLAY TEXTS - INDEXES

Inter-Play an on-line index to plays in collections, anthologies and periodicals
Lists citations to plays, many of which are not included in the standard printed play indexes. Search by author and/or title.

Play index Online Covers plays of all kinds by author, title, subject, and number and kind of cast.

REVIEWS

Academic Search Complete
A scholarly academic multi-disciplinary database, covering a broad range of disciplines. Includes some full text coverage for more than 3,600 journals.

Historical Newspapers Online
Indexes articles in the New York Times and the Times of London with full-text access to the latter.

General OneFile (Available only to UA Students, Faculty, & Staff)
An index to articles and reviews in over 1,400 scholarly journals and general interest magazines.

Newsbank
Indexes to newspaper articles; good for theater performance reviews, especially regional U.S. theater.

New York Times Theatre Reviews. 1870-1919, 6 vol., 1976: 1920-1970, 10 vol., 1971; 1977 - PN 2266 N48 Info Commons Ref.
Contains reprinted reviews for theatre productions as they appeared in the New York Times.
Arranged chronologically.

PLOT SUMMARIES

Literature Online (Available only to UA Students, Faculty, & Staff) Full text database.
Contains English and American literature, including poetry, drama and fiction. Also includes biographical information as well as synopses and summaries of plays.

Masterplots II: Drama Series. Main Library Ref. PN6112.5 .M37 2004. Treatment given to over 300 English language plays. Includes production histories and lists of major characters as well as a plot summary followed by information describing other aspects of the play. Also includes biographical and bibliographic information.

Musical Theater

American musical theatre : a chronicle. Music Ref. ML1711 .B67 2001

The American Musical Theatre Song Encyclopedia Music Ref. ML102.M88 H59 1995

American Song: The Complete Musical Theatre Companion. Music Ref. ML128.M78 B6 1996 2vols.

The Broadway song companion : an annotated guide to musical theatre literature by voice type and song style. Music Ref. ML128.M78 D48 1998. Lists more than 2,000 songs from Broadway shows. Each entry includes information on voice, vocal range, and song style. Organized alphabetically by name of show. Songs listed in order of performance within show. Includes indexes.

The Encyclopedia of the Musical Theatre. Music Ref. ML102.M88 G3 2001 3 vols.

Jill Hobgood's Musical Sites List - "Theatricopia" - an abundance of links and more for Musical Theatre fans. Includes shows, composers/lyricists, lyrics, etc.

The musical : a research and information guide. Music Ref. ML128.M78 E84 2004

Musicals.Net

The Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization - Includes information about composers, lyricists, writers, production requirements and individual musical numbers... for more than just Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals

Stage it with music : an encyclopedic guide to the American musical theatre. Music Ref. ML102.M88 H6 1993. Covers American musical theatre from its beginnings in the 19th century

to the present. Topics covered include: genres, shows, personalities, musical series, production companies and institutions. Includes a chronology of musical shows and a bibliography.

People & Organizations

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

(Wilson) Biography Reference Bank - Biography Reference Bank contains narrative profiles of over a half million people. Included are the original profiles of Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated (covering many print volumes of biographical reference books published by H. W. Wilson and others, including all volumes of Current Biography), combined with periodicals coverage of Biography Index and full text articles, page images, and abstracts from the complete range of Wilson databases. (Available only to UA Campus.)

Biography Resource Center - The Biography Resource Center + The Complete Marquis Who's Who® is a comprehensive database of biographical information on more than one million people from throughout history, around the world, and across all disciplines and subject areas. (Available only to UA Campus.)

Contemporary Authors

Available through Literature Resource Center Provides full-text information about authors who have published in this century.

Contemporary American dramatists. Detroit, MI : St. James Press, 1994. - PS 352 .C65 1994
Main Reference

Who Was Who in the Theatre, 1912-1976 Detroit: Gale Research, 1978. 4 vol. - PN 2597
W52 Main Reference

A Biographical Dictionary of Actors, Actresses, Directors, Playwrights and Producers of the English-Speaking Theatre.

THEATER RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

American Society for Theatre Research The American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), established in 1956, provides an organization and public voice for theatre scholars and promotes the cause of theatre as a field for serious scholarly study and research.

Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers: A national independent labor union representing members through the United States and abroad.

Theatre Library Association Founded in 1937, the Theatre Library Association supports librarians and archivists affiliated with theatre, dance, performance studies, popular entertainment, motion picture and broadcasting collections.

DIRECTORIES ETC.

Associations-Encyclopedia of Associations- Contains information for approximately 400,000 international and U.S. national, regional, state and local non-profit membership organizations in all fields. Search by location, subject or SIC code. (Available only to UA Campus.)

Theater Listings (TheaterUSA.com) A State by State directory of theatrical organizations in the U.S.

Arizona Commission on the Arts Resources for Educators/Teachers. Provides links to resources such as assessment, listing of Arizona Libraries, evaluation, partnership, arts standards, links to other arts learning organizations, research, curriculum, teaching artists and more.

LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Theater in Tucson a listing of the various theater companies in and around the Tucson metropolitan area.

Web Resources

Digital Librarian: Performing Arts

A librarian's choice of the best of the Web. A good overview of performance related web sites.

Improv Encyclopedia Includes tons of stuff related to improvisation theatre including improv games, handles, concentration exercises, drama techniques, character exercises, warm-ups, long form Improv formats, improvised show formats, tips for improv workshops and much more.

Internet Public Library Theatre Resources Dramatic literature performance, from a popular entertainment view, i.e. going to the theater, performers, shows, etc.

Literary Resources for Theatre

Part of the Literary Resources collection maintained by Jack Lynch. Includes other megasites such as UK and French theatre sites.

The Monologue Archive Provides online access to monologues from a variety of periods. For each monologue, related links are added about the playwright and the play. This site contains annoying ads and pop-ups, but if you can live with that, it is a very useful tool.

The Theatre Database a megasite that provides links to online resources on the theater. Divided by time period.

TheatreUSA.com A mega-site providing links to a variety of online resources on various aspects of the theater.

Theatre Arts Education Resources

AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS / ARTS EDUCATION STANDARDS

"Standards" in American education define what students should know and be able to do in any given academic discipline. National standards in the arts (dance, music, theater, visual arts) have been developed to provide a guide and resource to states and school districts that want to develop their own standards.

ARIZONA Dept. of EDUCATION ARTS STANDARDS

This site contains the revised 2006 standards for arts education (including theater arts) in Arizona.

ARTSEEDGE

"ARTSEEDGE — the National Arts and Education Network — supports the placement of the arts at the center of the curriculum and advocates creative use of technology to enhance the K-12 educational experience. ARTSEEDGE empowers educators to teach in, through, and about the arts by providing the tools to develop interdisciplinary curricula that fully integrate the arts with other academic subjects.

ARTSEEDGE offers free, standards-based teaching materials for use in and out of the classroom, as well as professional development resources, student materials, and guidelines for arts-based instruction and assessment.

A program of the [John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts](#), ARTSEEDGE is also a partner of [MarcoPolo](#), a consortium of national education organizations, state education agencies and the MarcoPolo Education Foundation. MarcoPolo Content Partners develop standards-based, discipline-specific educational Web sites for K-12 teachers and students."

ARTS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

"Since its founding in 1995 by the National Endowment for the Art and the U.S. Department of Education, the Arts Education Partnership (AEP) has become the primary forum and meeting ground for organizations to explore how the arts can transform American education.. Partnership organizations have led the national movement to establish education standards that include the arts. They have conducted and published groundbreaking research on the impact of learning in the arts on student achievement. And they have identified the policies and practical steps that will enable schools and school districts to achieve educational excellence by incorporating the arts into teaching and learning.

Partnership organizations affirm the central role of imagination, creativity and the arts in culture and society; the power of the arts to enliven and transform education and schools; and collective action through partnerships as the means to place the arts at the center of learning. Partnership teams are at work in every state. The teams consist of representatives from state departments of education, state arts agencies and state alliances for arts education as well as the state and local affiliates of national Partnership organizations. The Partnership maintains an electronic network of state and local teams and partnerships and provides support and resources to

strengthen their impact. The Partnership issues reports and documentation of all of its meetings and activities on our web site.

The Arts Education Partnership publishes research and advocacy materials supporting the role of arts education in schools. The Partnership maintains a listserv through which organizations share and receive timely information on issues relevant to arts education at the national and state level. If you have further questions, please contact us by e-mail at aep@ccsso.org."

Further Research

Bibliographic Guide to Theatre Arts. Main Library. PN 1584. B53 2003. Annual list of acquisitions of the New York Public Library's Performing Arts Division.

Citation Guides for Print & Electronic Resources from the UA Library

Examples of citations for MLA, APA, and Chicago Styles, as well as links to subject specific citation styles

Theatre Studies Research Guide (Yale University) A comprehensive, scholarly web site for theater research. Incorporates both print and online resources.

The World of the Play

Environmental Facts: geographical information, date, season, time & economic, political & social environments

Print sources

UA Library Catalog

Start with a keyword search on your topic. Once you find a few sources, look at the subject headings. Search the subject headings to find more on your topic.

Go to the Main Library Microfilm section (floor 1, behind photocopy); pick a newspaper; locate the date you need; pull out a few microfilms and browse them.

Locate the call number (use the catalog to do this) for a magazine that was published during the time period by doing a journal title search in the catalog (Life, Time, Harpers Weekly, etc); go to the stacks and browse the year you need.

Here a few titles that list historical events in chronological order that you might want to check:

The Big Book of Dates (electronic book)

Chronology of world history. Info Commons Ref. D11 .M39 1999 4 vols.

The people's chronology : a year-by-year record of human events from prehistory to the present Main Ref. D11 .T83 1994

The women's chronology : a year-by-year record from prehistory to the present. Main Lib. HQ1122 .T73 1994

Online sources

Online sources are helpful in finding historical information, but browsing is not always a feature; you'll have to use keywords to find information. Also, limit your search in each of these to the time period you need.

Facts on File World News Digest

Online (1940-present) or in paper at D410 .F3 (older copies in Main stacks, most recent 5 years in Information Commons Reference). This source covers economic, political, and social environments. For example, it includes Presidents' "State of the Union Address," a "Best Seller Lists," which includes hit T.V. programs, popular music, books.

America: History & Life

Use the **CLIO Notes** section to see chronology of event.

Readers Guide Retrospective, 1890 through 1982

Contains comprehensive indexing of the most popular general-interest periodicals published in the United States and reflects the history of 20th century America. No full-text. The paper copies are at AI3 .R48 Info Commons Ref (from 1900-present)

Historical New York Times 1851-current until last 3 years.

Complete version of the New York Times, including viewing of entire pages as well as specific articles. Some of the images will be blocked due to copyright restrictions, so you might have to use the microfilm. Complete version of the New York Times, including viewing of entire pages as well as specific articles

Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe

Great place for news articles from national and regional newspapers, wire services, transcripts from NPR, etc. The database includes national and regional news sources.

If you're searching for information in a particular **geographic region**, then for

Step One: Select a news category use the pull-down menu and select **U.S. News**

Step Two: Select a news source use the pull-down menu to choose either a region or a state

Step Three: Enter search terms Leave the default fields as they are: **Headline & Lead Paragraph**.

Otherwise, use the **General News** in Step One and **Major papers** in Step Two.

Academic Search Premier

Covers a broad range of disciplines including general academic, business, social sciences, humanities, general sciences, education, and multi-cultural topics. Offers full text coverage for 1,360 journals and indexing and abstracts for 2,920 journals.

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