The Beats: an online research guide

1. Consult a reference source, online or in print for an overview of your topic, biography, historical context, themes, social issues:

   Examples of PRINT Reference titles at STL: free printing from Reference books at the Information Desk
   
   The Beat Generation: a Gale critical companion [Ref PS228.B6 Z68 2003]

   Straight from the fridge, dad: a dictionary of hipster slang [Ref PE3727.B43 D43 2001]
   Women of the Beat generation: the writers, artists, and muses at the heart of revolution [Ref PS508.W7 W585 1996]

   Online encyclopedias via Gale Virtual Reference Library:
   http://lib.newpaltz.edu/#Databases


   http://find.galegroup.com/gvrl/infomark.do?selectedTab=ALL&searchType=AdvancedSearchFor m&sort=DocTitle&type=search&tabID=T001&prodId=GVRL&queryId=Locale%28en%2C%2C %29%3AFQE%3D%28TJ%2CNone%2C15%29beat+generation%24&version=1.0&userGroupName=newpaltz&source=gale

   Gale Literature Resource Center: good source for basic biographical information and overviews, as well as literary criticism reprinted from journals or books.

2. Search the Sojourner Truth Library (STL) Catalog for books in this library.
   If you are fairly certain your topic is a Library of Congress subject heading, try subject word(s) or Subject begins with:
   Subject word(s) search examples:
Choose databases for journal and newspaper articles about your topic:

**Databases** on the STL web page at [http://lib.newpaltz.edu/](http://lib.newpaltz.edu/)

**Multi-disciplinary databases are useful for finding information on varied topics:**

- **Academic Search Premier** (EBSCO) general database, focuses on searches for academic literature across broad ranges of disciplines
  Tutorial from EBSCO available at: [http://support.epnet.com/training/flash_videos/basicSearchingAcademic.html](http://support.epnet.com/training/flash_videos/basicSearchingAcademic.html)

- **Gale Literature Resource Center**, good for searching a variety of sources for author information, literary criticism, as well as literary genre information

- **Historical New York Times** – full text from 1851-2003 (Here is a link to a 1959 NY Times article about Beat poetry with a great glossary!)

**Specific databases for finding information related to literature:** [http://lib.newpaltz.edu/](http://lib.newpaltz.edu/)

- Expanded Academic: general database, good for literary topics
  For information on “advanced searching,” click on the “?” at the top right side of the screen

- **JSTOR** —database for finding full-text articles in academic journals, especially useful for archival articles (e.g., pre-2003, with some journals going back as far as late-19th and early-20th centuries)
  JSTOR assistance: consult the “tips” area for guides [http://www.jstor.org/help/search.html](http://www.jstor.org/help/search.html)
o **MLA** — a database from EBSCO that focuses on material related to topics from literature, language, linguistics, and folklore
   Tutorial from EBSCO available at:
   [http://support.epnet.com/training/flash_videos/basicSearchingAcademic.html](http://support.epnet.com/training/flash_videos/basicSearchingAcademic.html)

o **Twayne's Author Series**: online version of the books (has both biographical and critical information from the book)

**IMPORTANT URL INFORMATION**: Links to articles may work at first, but can change after you have copied them. Find out how to create persistent URL’s so that your articles will be there when you need them!

[http://lib.newpaltz.edu/databases/persistent.html](http://lib.newpaltz.edu/databases/persistent.html)

What do I do when I find a citation without full text?

Follow these instructions if you do not see full text within the database:

[http://lib.newpaltz.edu/assistance/finditnewpaltz.pdf](http://lib.newpaltz.edu/assistance/finditnewpaltz.pdf)

If full text is not available in the library or online, you may wish to use ILLIAD (interlibrary loan). (Journal articles take just a few days and come to your e-mail account.)

Try using [WebFeat](https://www.webfeat.com) (NEW) federated searching tool to search multiple sources at one time.

If you search Google, check out Google Scholar to limit to more scholarly sources accessible to SUNY New Paltz students:


(Set your “scholar preferences” for SUNY New Paltz.)

Research Assistance on the STL web page:

[http://lib.newpaltz.edu/assistance/assistanceindex.html](http://lib.newpaltz.edu/assistance/assistanceindex.html) (for help with MLA citation & style, LC classification, forms for individual assistance)

Citation & Style tip: most databases will format your MLA citation. Look for that option when you have selected the articles you want.

If you need personal assistance, fill out a Research Assistance form and a librarian will work with you on your project. (online or in person)

[http://lib.newpaltz.edu/consultation_new.html](http://lib.newpaltz.edu/consultation_new.html)