Finding Books and Book Reviews

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Before we look for reviews, we need to locate an appropriate book.

In this example, I am looking for books on food and globalization held by the UTM Library.

- Do not use the “Search All” tab. Use the “Catalogue” and enter your keywords.
- Use “anywhere” for keyword searching
- Try using * at the end of a root word to get more results (ex: global* = global, globalization, globalize)
Finding Books

947 titles found in total, sorted by relevance. 119 at UTM
I have found one book which looks good and the instructor has approved it.

The book is:

If available, the record will indicate “Stacks”. Write down the call number and retrieve it from the stacks.
(Call numbers: A-L -3rd floor; M-Z -4th floor)

**Lets go and find some find some reviews……..**
When searching for reviews, consider the following:

**The Source of the review:**
- Is it in a scholarly (peer reviewed) journal?
- Is it from a specialized magazine or professional website?

(Tip: Avoid reviews from personal websites, blogs, and other social media.)

**Author of the review:**
- Are they an “expert” in the field?
- Could they be a friend or colleague of the book's author?
- Are they a regular critic of the author or viewpoint?

(Tip: You may be able to get some additional insight and context for your essay by checking into the background of the review authors. Check their academic credentials...where are they employed?, what else have they written?, etc.)
When searching for reviews, consider the following:

**The edition of the book:**
- Is it a first edition or a later edition?
- Are the reviews for the edition you have or are they for earlier editions?

**The year the book was published:**
- A book just published may take up to a year or more to generate a sizable collection of reviews.
- For example, a book published in 2012, may have reviews appearing in 2013 and even later.

(Tip: Don’t restrict your search by years!)
Finding Book Reviews

Instead of spending hours searching for book reviews using Google searches, try first using one or all of the following Library online tools:

- **Book Review Index Online**
- **Book Review Digest Plus**
- **“Articles” Search (Summon) on the Library website**

Many Book Reviews are available in full text online.

If not online, we may have print copies available in the Library or through the Library System.
I need to find Book Reviews on:
Finding Book Reviews

From the U of T Mississauga Library website, go to the “Starting Points”, and click on the “Geography & Environment” subjects link.

This takes us to the “Geography & Environment” Research Resources page, which includes links to the Book Review Indexes.
Finding Book Reviews

Library Resources:
- ENV 310
- ENV 496
- GGR 202
- GGR 208
- GGR 276
- GGR 277
- GGR 306
- GGR 313
- GGR 325
- GGR 348
- GGR 353
- GGR 365
- GGR 378
- GGR 417
- GGR 418
- GGR 489

Find Articles:
- GEOBASE
- Social Sciences Abstracts
- Social Sciences Citation Index
- Water Resources Abstracts

Reference Sources:
- Europa World Plus
- A Dictionary of Geography
- World Factbook
- Oxford Guide to Countries of the World
- Canadian Geographical Names
- National Climate Data Archive of Canada
- Atlas of Canada
- Encyclopedia of the Earth
- A Dictionary of the Weather

Selected Links & Websites:
- Department of Geography
- Selected websites

Citation Tools:
- APA Style Guide
- Chicago Style Guide
- MLA Style Guide
- RefWorks

Book Reviews:
- Book Review Index Online
- Book Review Digest Plus
- Other Book Review Indexes
- The Book Review Critique—some tips on reading, comparing, and writing book reviews.

Links to Book Review Indexes
Enter the title of your book in the “Title Guide” search box.

The best reviews will be found in peer-reviewed or “refereed” scholarly journals. Try limiting your search to “refereed” publications.
Finding Book Reviews

Clicking on the “Get It” button, Will then check the system for full text and print copies.
Select “More options”
- Confirm that Review is from a Scholarly Journal
- Find hard copy versions

Get Full Text in PDF
Finding Book Reviews

Check if it's Scholarly
### Finding Book Reviews

#### Narrow Results
- **Key Features**
  - Abstracted or Indexed (34,788)
  - Website URL (24,709)
  - Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) (27,419)
  - Refereed / Peer-reviewed (20,755)
  - Available Online (10,427)
  - Table of Contents (10,213)
  - Journal Citation Reports (5,496)
  - Magazines for Libraries review (4,639)
  - Electronic-only (2,234)

#### 1 - 25 of 98,094 results for: Journal of economic issues

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<td>Journal of Economic Issues</td>
<td>Taylor &amp; Francis Inc.</td>
<td>0021-3624</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Active</td>
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<td>Journal of Economic Issues</td>
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<td>1946-326X</td>
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<td>Journal</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Family and Economic Issues</td>
<td>Springer New York LLC</td>
<td>1058-0476</td>
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Finding Book Reviews

Refereed = Peer reviewed
-articles are reviewed and critiqued by fellow scholars prior to acceptance for publishing
The next link is the “Book Review Digest Plus”

With the “Book Review Digest Plus”, you need to select “Title” from the drop down menu.
Select “Book Review Articles” from the “Refine your results”.
Finding Book Reviews

A third option for Book Review Searching is through **Summon**

**Summon** is located on the UTM Library search bar, change the tab to “Article Search” to access it.

Enter the title of the book in the “Articles” box.
181,877 results are listed, but how do we get to the book reviews?
Selecting different filtering options will allow you to narrow your results.

Vaclav Smil has been an extraordinarily productive author over an even more extraordinary range of diverse but related areas of inquiry. There is simply no aspect of agriculture, food production, and population on which Smil has not written. In addition to his special expertise on China, Smil’s work ranges from soils, crops, and the global need for fertilizer to his fine work on energy and the environment. In Smil, we have an author who always informs. At times, the reader is confronted with an overwhelming mass of technical data that is always integrated into a logical comprehensive analytical framework. His work has the added virtue of being clearly and cleanly written. Feeding

A combination of well-proven economic and technical fixes, environmental protection measures, and dietary adjustments can extract enough food from China’s agro-economic systems to provide decent nutrition during the next generations without weakening the country’s environmental foundations. (p. 315)

Smil suggests that we use his analysis of China as proxy for the world, which he finds to be “a fitting summary of an encouragingly Malthusian book” (p. 315). *Feeding the World* is absolutely essential reading for anyone seriously interested in the subject.

**Tip:** - good indicator of refereed review …reviewer name and research affiliation included.
Questions???

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