Remote Access to Library Databases

Library URL> http://www.wlac.edu/library > [Select Database] > Login [student ID # beginning with '88']; Password [4-digit birthdate, MMDD]

Finding critical essays for literary topics

◊ Searches multiple lit databases (e.g., DLB, CLC, Twayne’s)
◊ In Advanced Search, note “Name of Work” and “peer-reviewed” options
◊ Use “Not” operator to exclude words (e.g., “Tehran”)
◊ In resulting list of results, select appropriate category in Tabs panel (“Literature Criticism” tab is default)
◊ Note also “Narrow Results” panel on far-left to (1) narrow in drop-down menu and (2) expand by number (e.g., 25, 50, 100; but note that expansion usually causes less relevant essays to be added)
◊ Note Tools box, especially .pdf view, email feature, memory and MP3 downloading
◊ To cite: Ignore Citation Tools; just scroll to bottom of document > copy & paste to Works Cited page > make adjustments à la MLA

LexisNexis® Academic

Finding court cases—In re: Lolita
1. Find Search by Content Type drop-down menu box, upper-right
2. Find International Legal (there are U.S. cases that refer to Nabokov’s Lolita, but none naming it as a defendant). Select EU, Commonwealth, and other Nations
3. In Search Terms box, type Lolita and Nabokov
4. In Sources box, select all entries with the word cases
5. Click red “Search” bar
6. See NZ cases (“In re Lolita”)
7. Start over with Canadian Cases
Modern Language Association (MLA) style stipulates a Works Cited page which provides full bibliographic data of your sources (note left-hand margin). These full citations are keyed to brief in-text citations (which are either signaled or un>). For further information and examples, see Joseph Trimmer's A Guide to MLA Documentation (9th ed.), the MLA Handbook (7th ed.), or your friendly neighborhood librarian—all in the library.

In-text Citing

For all its notoriety, Lolita, Nabokov’s novel about a middle-aged professor of literature in love and in lust for his 12-year-old stepdaughter, was never banned in the United States; though through its courts were dragged, among others, Joyce’s Ulysses and Lawrence’s Lady Chatterly’s Lover (titles which were ultimately vindicated). Arguably, movie adaptations of the novel faced more difficult hurdles in getting approval for cinematic release (Power 101). Rejected by litigation-shy American publishers on its completion in 1954 and a year later published in France, Lolita, however, promptly earned a ban from the French government and was hauled into its courts to defend itself against obscenity charges—even though not a single act of sex (normal or deviant) explicitly graces its pages or, for that matter, nary a vulgar four-letter word to be found (Ladenson 188). Besides being banned in the country that gave the world the Marquis de Sade and the French kiss, Lolita has been censored by the governments of England, Argentina, New Zealand, and South Africa (“Banned”), but not so in America. In other words, Lolita, in its “birth” country never had to pass the litmus test for obscenity—defined by one authority, Joseph Slade, as “nastiness . . . demeaning prurience . . . sheer inhumaness” (4). Despite, or because of, the federal government’s official reticence regarding Lolita’s propriety, countless local communities in America have placed the novel on its censorship lists since the novel’s wildly successful domestic publication in 1958. Within a month of its publication, it was banned by the Cincinnati Public Library; (Boyd 367) and as recently as 2006, the supervisors of Marion County, Florida, challenged the book as “unsuitable for minors (“Banned”). If Lolita were just another book of pornography among the heaving, tumescent mountains of such books, it would have been flushed down le toilette on the day it was published, Lolita, however, is not such a book.

Even though it is a novel at base about a pedophile, it is an artful book about a pedophile (or in Nabokov’s more felicitous phrase, a “nympholeptic”). Just before the French government banned the book, Graham Greene named it one of the three best books of the year (Kuzmanovich 7). Over time, critical appreciation of Lolita has only become more positively engorged, appearing on many “best” lists: Modern Library’s “100 Best Novels” of the 20th century (ranked 4th!), Le Monde’s 100 Best Novels (ranked 27th), Time’s “All Time 100 Novels” of the English-language, 1923-2005 (ranked alphabetically), Harold Bloom’s “Western Canon,” and on and on. While critics and scholars (though not in unanimity) praise (Kuzmanovich 7). Over time, critical appreciation of Lolita has only become more positively engorged, appearing on many “best” lists: Modern Library’s “100 Best Novels” of the 20th century (ranked 4th!), Le Monde’s 100 Best Novels (ranked 27th), Time’s “All Time 100 Novels” of the English-language, 1923-2005 (ranked alphabetically), Harold Bloom’s “Western Canon,” and on and on. While critics and scholars (though not in unanimity) praise (Kuzmanovich 7). Over time, critical appreciation of Lolita has only become more positively engorged, appearing on many “best” lists: Modern Library’s “100 Best Novels” of the 20th century (ranked 4th!), Le Monde’s 100 Best Novels (ranked 27th), Time’s “All Time 100 Novels” of the English-language, 1923-2005 (ranked alphabetically), Harold Bloom’s “Western Canon,” and on and on. While critics and scholars (though not in unanimity) praise (Kuzmanovich 7). Over time, critical appreciation of Lolita has only become more positively engorged, appearing on many “best” lists: Modern Library’s “100 Best Novels” of the 20th century (ranked 4th!), Le Monde’s 100 Best Novels (ranked 27th), Time’s “All Time 100 Novels” of the English-language, 1923-2005 (ranked alphabetically), Harold Bloom’s “Western Canon,” and on and on. While critics and scholars (though not in unanimity) praise (Kuzmanovich 7). Over time, critical appreciation of Lolita has only become more positively engorged, appearing on many “best” lists: Modern Library’s “100 Best Novels” of the 20th century (ranked 4th!), Le Monde’s 100 Best Novels (ranked 27th), Time’s “All Time 100 Novels” of the English-language, 1923-2005 (ranked alphabetically), Harold Bloom’s “Western Canon,” and on and on. While critics and scholars (though not in unanimity) praise (Kuzmanovich 7). Over time, critical appreciation of Lolita has only become more positively engorged, appearing on many “best” lists: Modern Library’s “100 Best Novels” of the 20th century (ranked 4th!), Le Monde’s 100 Best Novels (ranked 27th), Time’s “All Time 100 Novels” of the English-language, 1923-2005 (ranked alphabetically), Harold Bloom’s “Western Canon,” and on and on. While critics and scholars (though not in unanimity) praise (Kuzmanovich 7). Over time, critical appreciation of Lolita has only become more positively engorged, appearing on many “best” lists: Modern Library’s “100 Best Novels” of the 20th century (ranked 4th!), Le Monde’s 100 Best Novels (ranked 27th), Time’s “All Time 100 Novels” of the English-language, 1923-2005 (ranked alphabetically), Harold Bloom’s “Western Canon,” and on and on. While critics and scholars (though not in unanimity) praise (Kuzmanovich 7). Over time, critical appreciation of Lolita has only become more positively engorged, appearing on many “best” lists: Modern Library’s “100 Best Novels” of the 20th century (ranked 4th!), Le Monde’s 100 Best Novels (ranked 27th), Time’s “All Time 100 Novels” of the English-language, 1923-2005 (ranked alphabetically), Harold Bloom’s “Western Canon,” and on and on. While critics and scholars (though not in unanimity) praise (Kuzmanovich 7).

Works Cited


Finding books: SIRSI, EBSCOhost ebooks, GVRL

SIRSI

◊ ‘words or phrase’—a keyword search—usually results in more hits than a ‘subject’ search
◊ Inserting ‘and’ or ‘or’ connector between words often changes results
◊ To see other titles like one found, or nearby on the shelf, or by the same author, click on ‘details’ button—then click on appropriate link in box to left of ‘item information’ record
◊ Expect irrelevant hits
◊ To see full bibliographic information for referencing in Works Cited page, click on ‘catalog record’ tab (highlighted in blue). Here are to be found the 5 basic components of a Works Cited citation: author, title, place of publication, publisher, and date of publication or copyright
◊ Also viewable in ‘catalog record’ tab are subjects under which the book is cataloged, with links

EBSCOhost ebooks

◊ Entire book viewable online; one viewer per title
◊ Use Advanced Search—keywords “lolita” and “Nabokov”
◊ Keyword searchable within contents; automatic citing feature available, but citation may need to be verified against MLA Handbook
◊ E-book text can be copy-pasted (be sure to credit and cite properly—ask about MLA style conventions
◊ Some texts can be printed, section by section

Gale Virtual Reference Library (GVRL)

◊ Note different results using keywords in basic and in advanced search modes
◊ Note left-hand panel for limiting number of results
◊ Ignore Citation Tools; just scroll to bottom of document (Source Citation) > copy & paste to Works Cited page > make adjustments à la MLA