

Film and Popular Culture Resource Guide

[Electronic Reference Sources](#)

[Periodical Indexes and Full-text Databases](#)

[Selected Internet Sources](#)

[Selected Print Sources](#)

In addition to the sources below, users should check the [Online Catalog](#), - try keyword searches such as 'film AND criticism' or a subject search for 'Popular Culture.'

Electronic Reference Sources

[Gale Virtual Reference Library \(GVRL\)](#)

"Gale Virtual Reference Library is a database of encyclopedias and specialized reference sources for multidisciplinary research." Titles relevant to film and popular culture include:

- St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture, 5v, 2000
- International Dictionary of Film and Filmmakers 4th ed., 4v, 2000
- Encyclopedia of Recreation and Leisure in America 2v, 2004
- Fashion, Costume, and Culture: Clothing, Headwear, Body Decorations, and Footwear through the Ages. 5v, 2004.
- Encyclopedia of Food and Culture, 3v, 2003
- Encyclopedia of Communication and Information, 3 v, 2001

[Encyclopedia Britannica](#)

Always a good source of background information, the online version of the complete Encyclopedia Britannica includes brief essays on cultural movements and notable personalities, such as rhythm and blues, the Beatles, and Clint Eastwood.

[Biography Resource Center](#)

"The Biography Resource Center is a comprehensive database of biographical information on over 320,000 people from throughout history, around the world, and across all disciplines and subject areas. It combines more than 400,000 biographies from over 800 volumes of more than 130 respected Gale sources such as Contemporary Authors, Encyclopedia of World Biography, Newsmakers, Contemporary Theatre, Film, and Television, Contemporary Musicians, Historic World Leaders, Notable Twentieth-Century Scientists, Contemporary Black Biography, Religious Leaders of America, International Dictionary of Art and Artists, Writers Directory, and many more..." A good source for researching biographical information on popular figures.

[Credo Reference \(xreferplus\)](#)

Credo Reference is a digitized collection of 395 reference books. Sample titles include "The Faber Companion to 20th Century Popular Music," and "The Thames & Hudson Dictionary of Fashion and Fashion Designers."

[Greenwood Digital Collection](#)

The Greenwood Digital Collection includes a category for Popular Culture. Sample titles include: "The Automobile in American History and Culture," "Fashion and Costume in American Popular Culture," and "Personalities and Products."

Periodical Indexes and Full-text Databases

[LexisNexis Academic](#)

For coverage of newspapers from the 1980s onward, users should look to LexisNexis Academic. Lexis contains the full-text of hundreds of domestic and international newspapers, including *The New York Times* (1980 -), the *Boston Globe* (1988 -), the *Boston Herald* (1994 -), and *The Chicago Sun Times* (1992 -). Users can retrieve full-text articles. **To locate film reviews**, go to "Guided News," and then either choose General News - Major Papers, or Arts & Sports News - Book, movie, music, & play reviews.

[Communication & Mass Media Complete](#)

This periodical database covers journals of communication and media studies. Sample full-text journal titles include: *Film & History*, *Advertising Age*, and the *Journal of Popular Film & Television*.

[Project Muse](#)

Project Muse is a collection of over 300 full-text scholarly journals from university presses and scholarly societies. In addition to history, literature, and sociology, Project Muse also has the category of 'Film, Theater, and Performing Arts.'

[JSTOR](#)

JSTOR is a collection of older, full-text, scholarly journals. In many instances, coverage of the journals extends back over 100 years. Scholarly articles on topics related to film and/or popular culture can be found in journals from several sections, including: sociology, language & literature, history, African American studies, and Latin American studies.

[Wiley InterScience \(includes Blackwell Synergy\)](#)

Wiley InterScience is a small periodical database, that offers the full-text of journals published by Wiley and what was formerly Blackwell publishing. Most notably it contains the full-text of *The Journal of Popular Culture* beginning with volume 1, issue 1, from the Summer of 1967. Users may also browse the journal titles listed in the Communication and Cultural Studies category.

[Art Full Text](#)

Art Full Text provides a mixture of full text journal articles, abstracts, and indexing of a variety of peer-selected publications. Subjects include: Advertising Art, Computers in Art, Fashion Design, Graphic Arts, Motion Pictures, Photography, Television, and Video. Two journals covered in Art Full Text, that are not available elsewhere, include *Film Studies* and *American Cinematographer*.

[Sage Journals Online](#)

The Communication Studies section of Sage Journals Online contains the full-text of journals such as *Media, Culture, & Society*, (1979 - present), and *Games and Culture*, (2006 - present).

[The New York Times \(1851 - 2003\)](#)

This full-text database of The New York Times (1851 - 2003) consists of scanned images of the actual paper. In addition to searches for articles, users can also search for advertisements, editorial cartoons, comics, obituaries (a good source of biographical information), and letters.

[Academic Search Complete](#)

[Business Source Complete](#)

Academic Search Complete and Business Source Complete (from EBSCO) are wide ranging periodical databases, covering topics in the social sciences and business. Both are good starting points for searching for film reviews or articles on trends and well known personalities in politics, business, and culture.

[Academic OneFile \(InfoTrac\)](#)

[General BusinessFile ASAP](#)

[General Reference Center Gold](#)

Like the two Ebsco periodical databases above, these three databases from Thomson Gale (Infotrac) are wide ranging collections of primarily full-text articles from both scholarly and popular journals.

[SocINDEX with Full Text](#)

SocINDEX with Full Text covers journals from all areas of sociology, with articles on such

topics as: anthropology, cultural sociology, ethnic & racial studies, gender studies, and urban studies.

[CSA Indexes in the Social Sciences](#)

CSA Indexes in the Social Sciences contains six separate periodical databases, which may be searched individually or as a group. Several of these may be useful in topics concerning popular culture. The abstracts databases will link to full-text when it is available.

- Communication Abstracts (Communication literature, broadcasting, public opinions)
- Criminal Justice Abstracts
- ERIC (Teacher education, test, measurement, and evaluation)
- Social Services Abstracts (Social work, human services, social welfare)
- Sociological Abstracts (Social structure, social change, social problems)

Selected Internet Sources

Film

[MRQE: Movie Review Query Engine](#)

<http://www.mrqe.com/>

Use this index to find information on over 43,000 movie titles. Enter part or all of the title in English or in the original language. Contains over 400,000 reviews, some from major newspaper and magazine critics, some from internet cranks with an axe to grind. Look for link on opening page for lists of year in review articles. Also includes other useful lists, such as: "Top 10 at the US Box Office," "AFI's 100 Greatest American Movies," "AFI's 100 Funniest Movies," "Cannes Film Festival," the "Academy Awards," and more. Want to skip the amateurs and go straight to major journalist critics? You can go directly to [The New York Times Movie Reviews](#) (registration required) or visit [Roger Ebert's page](#) at the *Chicago Sun-Times*, which lists current reviews, his picks of "Great Movies," as well as some of his recent interviews and his Q&A column.

[IMDb: Internet Movie Database](#)

<http://www.imdb.com/>

Excellent website for basic movie information. (It's especially strong in providing cast and technical credits) IMDB includes: "Top Hits" at the box office, new film openings, new videos, reviews of movies and videos, news, trailers, and more. Search by plot keywords to find similar movies. Also includes some information on television movies and mini-series. [Yahoo! Movies](#) and [Rotten Tomatoes](#) can also be a handy starting point for the latest news, views, and release info, but these are for quick fan/moviegoer information and not for film scholarship!

[Kodak: Glossary of Film / Video Terms](#)

http://motion.kodak.com/US/en/motion/Education/Film_Video_Glossary/index.htm

Kodak has been one of the great innovators of motion picture and video photography. Therefore

it's not surprising that they would create this useful glossary of movie and video technology terms. Another worthwhile [Glossary of Film Terms](#) has been produced by Joel Schlemowitz of the New School in New York. And for a glossary that includes more show biz slang, try the [IMDb Film Glossary](#).

[The Internet Public Library: Documentary Films](#)

<http://www.ipl.org/div/subject/browse/ent50.70.00/>

A brief annotated listing of websites devoted to documentary films.

[DocuSeek](#)

<http://66.167.103.217/wc.dll?docprocess~startsearch>

"DocuSeek is a search site for independent, documentary, educational and social issue video and films. DocuSeek allows you to search for videos by grade level, length, filmmaker, and other characteristics, in addition to searching for key words." Results provide the title, brief description, date, length, grade level, and a link to the distributor for that film.

[EarlyCinema.com](#)

<http://www.earlycinema.com/>

Here's a useful spot for basic information on some of the pioneers of film in the late 19th and early 20th century. "Earlycinema.com aims to provide an introduction to the first decade of motion pictures and the developments which help shape cinema as we know it today. The site is by no means a complete account of the development of cinema, and concentrates on the major events in cinema's history encouraging further reading and research." There is a useful timeline of the inceptive breakthroughs of film, brief biographies of some of the innovators of the field, and lists of book and web resources.

Popular Culture

[Popular Culture: Resources for Critical Analysis](#)

<http://www.wsu.edu/%7Eamerstu/pop/tvrguide.html>

Created by Professor T. V. Reed of Washington State University, this website aims to provide "resources for the critical analysis of popular culture in the United States, including the impact of that culture beyond national borders." Extensive links for genre, issues, and analysis.

[Images: A Journal of Film and Popular Culture](#)

<http://www.imagesjournal.com/>

An online quarterly magazine devoted to "movies, television, videos, and other popular visual arts." It includes feature articles, in depth reports on film genres, movie and video reviews, as well as an archive of previous articles.

[epguides.com](#)

<http://www.epguides.com/>

"This site contains Episode Lists for over 2500 TV shows. Each list contains titles and airdates. For most of these shows there is also a more detailed episode guide at TV Tome containing guest stars and plot summaries." Works well for the latest shows and for many of the classic shows, as well. This isn't the place to come for detailed analysis, but rather for episode-by-episode information on a particular program.

[TV Guide Online](#)

<http://www.tvguide.com/>

The website of this venerable TV listing magazine has a lot of additional content. There are features on current shows, as well as on classic favorites. The site is searchable, but may require registration to access some included materials. Also note the link to their [Movies homepage](#) which includes a searchable database of 40,000 movie reviews that cover silent classics as well as current films. And for more facts and images related to television history--primarily from a technology viewpoint--you might also want to visit [Television History: The First 75 Years](#).

[Network & Cable TV Guide](#)

http://www.geocities.com/TelevisionCity/9348/tv_guide.htm

A self-proclaimed "work in progress," this fan-driven site tries to provide show- and star-specific information related to network and cable television shows. Generally gives broadcast dates, key performers, and basic synopsis. Note: because this website is hosted on a server that allows it limited resources, you will occasionally get a message indicating that the site "has exceeded its allocated data transfer" or some other kind of error. If you try again a while later, you will usually be able to access it.

[Transparency](#)

<http://www.transparencynow.com/>

This website, which "tries to make things clear," links to its own reviews and articles on popular culture. Content is grouped under the following headings: Situation Comedies, Media & Popular Culture, Movies & Television, TV & Film Theory, The Age of Simulation, Post-Apocalyptic Fiction & Science Fiction, Image & Action, Simulation & Post-Modern Society, The Fear of Wholeness, and Other.

[Animation World Network](#)

<http://www.awn.com/>

A nicely organized animation trade site, which includes directories, news on technical breakthroughs, and career information. Look for the link for the associated publication [Animation World Magazine](#), which provides profiles and features on animators, studios, and their work.

[Media History Project](#)

<http://www.mediahistory.umn.edu/>

"Promoting the study of media history from petroglyphs to pixels" is the stated aim of this website, based at the University of Minnesota. There's a timeline, assorted links, and content spanning from the earliest media to the digital age. Ever wonder about the "origins of videotape

recording"? That's the kind of thing you can learn about at this website.

[ScreenSite](http://www.screensite.org/)

<http://www.screensite.org/>

Founded in 1994 and sponsored by the University of Alabama, this website was originally designed to support the *study* of film and TV. ScreenSite can still be useful for educators and students, but since a 2003 overhaul, it seems more oriented towards forums and blogs (and creating an online film community) than it does in posting substantive content. To browse, choose from the categories in the left frame. These include Education, Research, Production, and Publications. Or use the Google-powered search engine. There are still some useful links here, as well as features like an "encyclopedia" of film and TV terminology, which might make this webpage worth a visit.

[Internet Public Library: Popular Culture](http://www.ipl.org/div/subject/browse/hum10.65.00/)

<http://www.ipl.org/div/subject/browse/hum10.65.00/>

The Internet Public Library site, hosted by the University of Michigan School of Information, is a good portal for a wide variety of topics. Their "subject collections" consist of briefly annotated links to internet websites. This is their list of web links on "Popular Culture." They have also produced even more extensive lists on [Television](#), [Movies](#), and the [History of Entertainment and Leisure](#).

Selected Print Sources

Film

[Magill's Cinema Annual](#) 1982-

REF PN1993.3 .M34

Each volume in this series provides essay length reviews of films released in the previous year. The essays conclude with nomination, award, and box office statistics, as well as citations to newspaper and magazine reviews.

[Magill's Survey of Cinema : English Language Films](#) First and Second Series

REF PN1995 .M3

These two series provide article length discussion of representative films since 1927. Collectively the two series cover over 1200 films. The first series (4 vols.) covers films released between 1927 - 1980, and the second series covers films between 1928-1981 (6 volumes). American, British, Canadian, Australian, and Jamaican films are included.

[Magill's Survey of Cinema: Foreign Language Film](#) 8 vols.

REF PN1993.45 .M34 1985

This companion set to the English language sets above covers 700 films originally produced in a language other than English.

[Blockbusters: A Reference Guide to Film Genres](#)

REF PN1995 .G663 2006

This volume defines the features and discusses the evolution of 12 film genres: Action-Adventure, Comedy, Costume Film, Epic, Film Noir, Horror, Musical, Science Fiction and Fantasy, Suspense, War Film, Western, and Woman's Film.

[Oxford History of World Cinema: 1895-1995](#)

REF PN1993.5.A1 O96 1996

Discusses American and world cinema from the silent films to modern times (1995).

[Columbia Companion to American History on Film](#)

REF PN1995.9.U64 C65 2003

Chapters are grouped by topic, such as wars, notable people, groups (radicals, women, ethnic groups), places, and themes.

[Encyclopedia of the Documentary Film](#) (3 vols.)

REF PN1995.9.D6 E53 2006

Covers the history of documentary film from around the world.

[Critical Dictionary of Film and Television Theory](#)

REF PN1993.45 .C75 2000

Entries define and describe the terminology used in critical theory.

Popular Culture

[St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture](#)

REF E169.1 .S764 2000

Also available electronically through [Gale Virtual Reference](#). In addition to the expected brief essays on television shows and hollywood personalities, there are also entries for the Chrysler Building (New York) and Dunkin' Donuts.

[Handbook of American Popular Culture](#) 3 vols.

REF E169.1 .H2643 1989

Although this is an older set, it does provide scholarly essays with extensive bibliographies on topics ranging from games and toys to the self-help tradition. There is also an appendix on the study of popular culture.

[Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History](#) 3 vols.

REF E169.1 .E624 2001

These three volumes cover American cultural and intellectual history from the perspective of time periods (1771 - 2000), themes (politics, economics, social factors, and the arts), and cultural

regions (New England, the Midwest, Appalachia).

[Encyclopedia of American Social Movements](#) 4 vols.

REF HN57 .E594 2004

These volumes provide extensive essays on social movements, many of which have become part of the current cultural landscape. Examples include the Conservative Movement; the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Movement; and the Fair Trade Coffee Movement.

[Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History](#) 5 vols.

REF E185 E54 1996

This five volume set, arranged alphabetically, provides essays on events, eras, cultural achievements, and biographical articles. Additional resources on African-American culture can be found at the Sawyer Library's African American Studies Resource Guide.

[Encyclopedia of Food and Culture](#)

REF GT2850 .E53 2003

Topics in this set range from Bagels to Etiquette and Eating Habits. Available electronically, through the [Gale Virtual Reference set](#).

[Encyclopedia of American Studies](#) 4 vols.

REF E169.1 .E625 2001

Covered topics range from Baseball to Pop Art.

[American Decades](#)

REF E169.12 .A42 1994

The series gives a chronological overview of events and trends of the twentieth century, with each volume covering a single decade, from 1900 to 1999. The individual volumes are divided into topical sections, such as arts, fashion, lifestyle and social trends, and media.

[American Decades: Primary Sources](#)

A 10 volume set - one volume per decade, 1900-1999, delivered electronically from the Gale Virtual Reference Library. "Each volume in the set includes full or excerpted primary sources representing the seminal issues, themes, movements and events from a decade. Includes oral histories, songs, speeches, advertisements, TV, play and movie scripts, letters, laws, legal decisions, newspaper articles, cartoons, recipes, and more."

[Day by Day](#)

REF D427 .L4 1977 - D848 .M45 1995

This chronology covers one day at a time, extending from the forties through the eighties. Culture, leisure and lifestyle is one of the categories included in the descriptions.

[History of the Mass Media in the United States](#)

REF P92.U5 H55 1998

A single volume encyclopedia devoted to mass media - the vehicle of news, information, and popular culture. In addition to the expected entries on the press, radio, and television, there are also entries for the topics of docudramas, libel, and a brief biographical article on Edward R. Murrow (1908-65), who in 1954 strongly opposed Senator Joseph R. McCarthy for being a threat to civil liberties.

[Encyclopedia of Communication and Information](#) 3 vols.

REF P87.5 .E53 2001

This three volume set attempts to cover all aspects of communication and information. Sample essays include Consumer Culture, Globalization of Culture Through the Media, and (Media as) Culture Industries. Also available through [Gale Virtual Reference](#).

[Encyclopedia of Television](#) 3 vols.

REF PN1992.18 .E53 1997

This three volume set covers everything and everybody connected to television: the shows, the personalities, the government agencies, and international programming.

[The Billboard Book of Top 40 Hits](#)

REF ML156.4.P6 W44 1992

Covers the artists, songs, and charts, from 1955-1992.