



## VIC191Y: Artistic Creation & Public Issues

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## Agenda

- Review the most common **research strategies** and **tools** that you will use to locate academic publications for this course **and** other courses in the humanities
- Help you refine **essential academic research skills**: consulting a scholarly reference source, formulating a preliminary search strategy, and finding scholarly sources
- Identify the **different types of publications** that we encounter while conducting university-level research

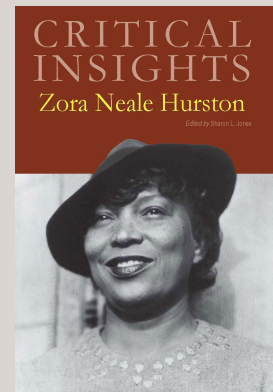
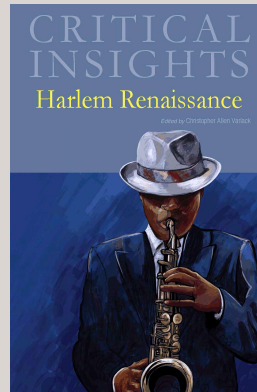


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## Common Challenges in Library Research

- 1) Finding **too many** sources on your topic  
and
- 2) Finding **too few** sources on your topic.



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## John D. Robins (1884–1952)

Appointed to Victoria University as  
Lecturer in German, 1910

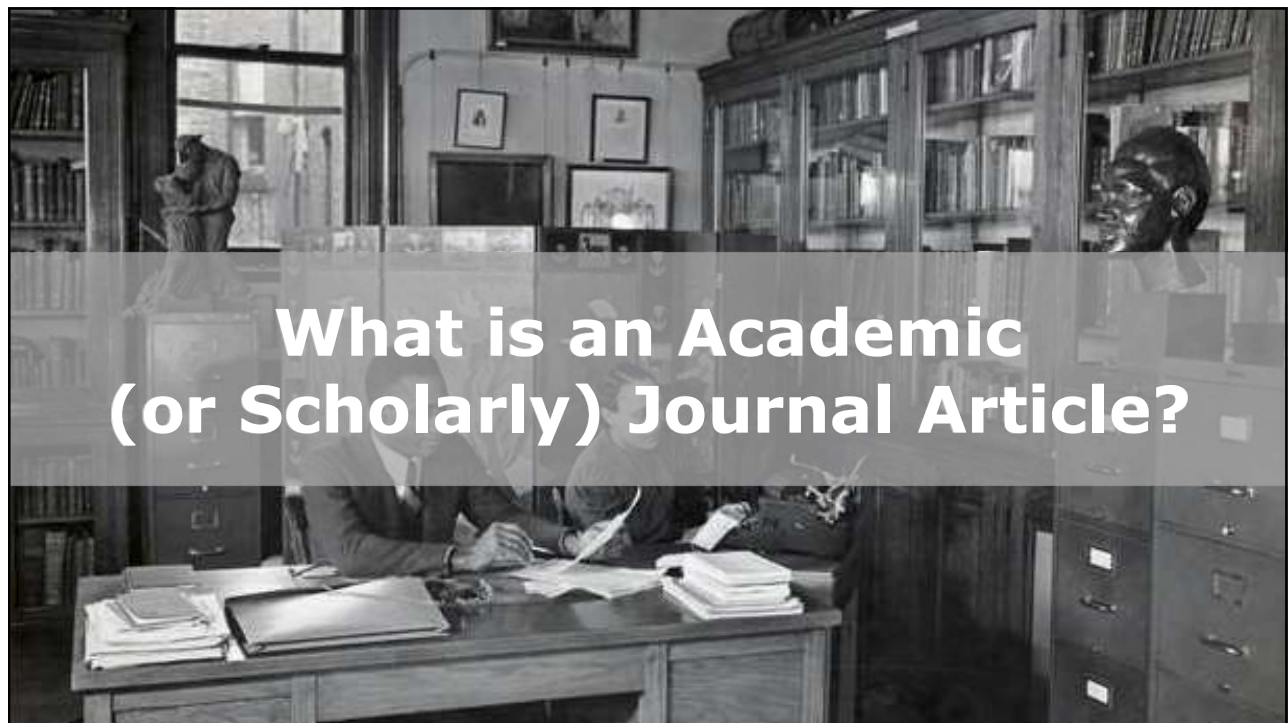
Professor of English and the  
Victoria University Librarian,  
1941–1952

John D. Robins Folklore Collection

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# What is a “Scholarly” Journal Article?

“Scholarly journal articles report on **original research** by experts in a particular academic discipline. Often they go through a **peer-review process**, which means that they are evaluated by reputable scholars in the field before they are published.”



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## Original Research

- Scholarly journal articles contribute **new knowledge** to a specific academic field, such as literature
- They report the results of an **original study** performed by an author (who is an academic), such as literary criticism
- For instance, a scholar typically analyzes a particular novel or poem (by reading it closely) and conducts research to locate and analyze the existing literary interpretation on their chosen text



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## Original Research

- Once they have gathered their evidence and synthesized their findings, the scholar writes, revises, and submits a draft of an article to the editor of an academic journal
- If accepted by the editor for potential publication, the manuscript then undergoes a **peer review**
- Finally, the author then makes any changes that are required by the reviewers and resubmits a revised draft to the editor, which is eventually published as an article
- Hopefully, by then the author experiences a sense of **fame** and **accomplishment** (and not infamy or notoriety).

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## Peer Review

- An academic term for **quality control** within a specific academic discipline
- It means that each article published in a peer-reviewed journal has been closely examined by a panel of reviewers who are **experts** on the topic explored in a particular article
- These reviewers assess the **accuracy** of the scholarship, evaluating the author's **research methods** and the **significance** of the paper's contribution to the existing literature

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## Peer Review

- They also verify that the author has incorporated the most important **publications** on the topic
- Papers published in peer-reviewed journals are approved by experts and are characterized by **high-quality scholarship**
- They are considered to be among **the most authoritative** sources of information on a particular subject.

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## Example: Peer-Reviewed Article

Keller, James R. "A Chafing Savage, Down the Decent Street': The Politics of Compromise in Claude McKay's Protest Sonnets." *African American Review*, vol. 28, no. 3, 1994, pp. 447–456.

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## Reference Sources: Encyclopedias & Handbooks

- They contain entries, articles, or chapters which provide extensive **overviews** or introductions to specific topics
- The information they contain can help us identify specific **aspects, angles, or parts** of a broader topic of research
- In turn, by selecting a particular **part** of a larger topic to explore, we can **refine it** or narrow it down to a more manageable scope of inquiry or research



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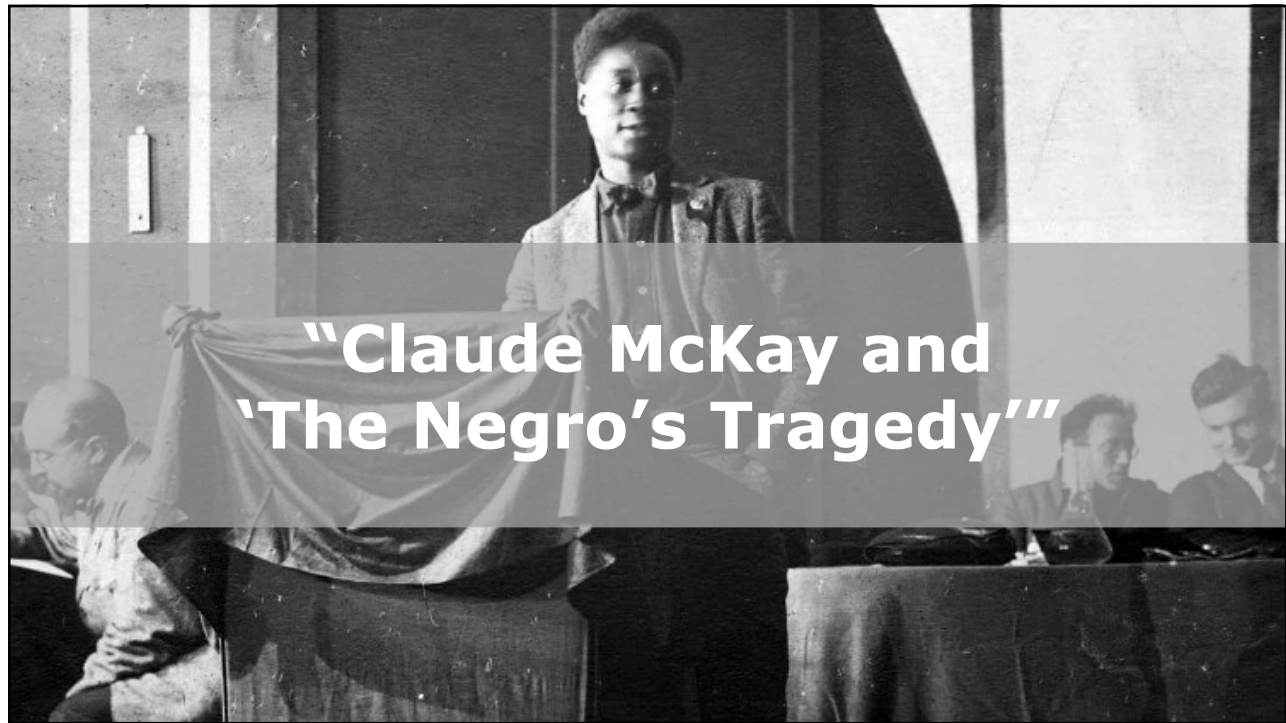
## Reference Sources: Encyclopedias & Handbooks

- Entries published in reference sources are written by **experts**
- As such, they are able to introduce and direct us to the **scholarly literature** on our chosen subject
- Entries are often accompanied by **bibliographies** and **recommended reading lists**, which consist of books, articles, and other types of authoritative sources that may be relevant to our topic of research.



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## Constructing a Preliminary Search Strategy

- 1) Identify the **main concepts** in your topic
- 2) Generate **keywords** to capture each main concept
- 3) Consider **synonyms** for each main concept
- 4) Connect each term using **AND** or **OR**
- 5) Select appropriate **research tools** to find sources on your topic.

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## "Claude McKay and the 'The Negro's Tragedy.'"

<u>Main Concepts</u>	<u>Synonym #1</u>	<u>Synonym #2</u>
Claude McKay		
<b>AND</b>		
"The Negro's Tragedy"	<b>OR</b> sonnet*	<b>OR</b> "Cycle Manuscript"
<b>AND</b>		
militant	<b>OR</b> radical*	<b>OR</b> politic*

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## Ask a Librarian

Access the online reference service  
Send an email  
Book a research consultation.



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## Research Consultation Service

- Appointments are tailored to the research requirements of a specific assignment
- Our role is to teach and guide you in developing academic research skills
- The purpose of the research consultation service is to help you develop strategies and skills related to locating and evaluating sources on your topic of research.

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## How to Prepare for an Appointment

Before requesting a consultation with a librarian, please complete the following:

- identify a topic of research
- conduct preliminary research using the resources outlined in the course research guide
- locate at least one scholarly source (such as a book or journal article) that is relevant to your chosen subject.

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