
Nancy L. Baker and Nancy Huling. *A Research Guide for Undergraduate Students: English and American Literature*. 6th ed. NY: Modern Language Association of America, 2006. 96p.

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Baker and Huling's *Research Guide for Undergraduate Students* is a helpful and essential tool for anyone interested in becoming better acquainted with library collections. The text is divided into ten chapters and designed to provide tips and walkthroughs of the various online and computer resources most common to university and college libraries. Baker and Huling's *Guide* takes the mystery out of finding secondary sources for research projects; it discusses everything from basic library book searches to navigating electronic databases that specialize in academic criticism. Perhaps the most important aspect of Baker and Huling's *Guide* is the diligence taken to critique "what various types of reference sources can and cannot do" (3). In this way, the *Guide* demonstrates to its audience the importance of matching the correct search engine to the demands of individual writing assignments.

The book begins by walking students through the process of using an electronic library directory. Using the University of Washington's library search engine as an example of a typical online catalog, Baker and Huling demonstrate how to find resources using "author," "title," "subject," and "keyword" searches. Tips for finding various works (i.e., the truncation of words, the recalling of books, and the refining of searches) are discussed in detail and are aided by various photographic examples as taken from the University of Washington's Library website. In this way, Baker and Huling begin by familiarizing undergraduates with basic library skills before demonstrating to their audience how to manage the library's more specialized collections.

Indeed, Baker and Huling take great time in introducing some of the more important databases and e-journals to their readers. Some examples of the many search engines discussed by Baker and Huling are as follows: the *Library of Congress Subject Headings*; the MLA's *Directory of Periodicals* and *International Bibliography*; *JSTOR*; *Project Muse*; the *Annual Bibliography of English and American Literature*; *ProQuest Research Library*; *Early English Books Online*; and finally *The New York Times* and *Times* databases. Students are not only provided with descriptions as to how these collections may be used, but also given an explanation as to how the information found within these resources differs from that found using general Web-based search engines such as *Google*. As an added bonus, Baker and Huling provide their readers with a comprehensive annotated bibliography showcasing more than seventy research sources available to students in libraries today.

In summary, Nancy Baker and Nancy Huling's *Research Guide for Undergraduate Students: English and American Literature* is an essential text for undergraduate students wishing to orient themselves with the best that university and college libraries have to offer. The book serves as a useful complement to any writing or introductory seminar that demands students be responsible for generating research based argumentative essays. The *Guide's* prose is both friendly and easy to follow, the diagrams provided by the authors are extremely useful, and the format of the overall project is engaging. ✱