Accessing MLA International Bibliography

- Go to the University Library’s homepage: lib.ua.edu.
- Click on the Databases link of the top left-hand side of the screen.
- Here you have a couple of options: browse the alphabetical list of databases by clicking on the M icon, or use the Select one or more Subjects category and scroll down to English (this option lets you browse the university’s collection of literature/grammar databases).

Searching MLA International Bibliography

The MLA International Bibliography is a versatile literature database which “consists of bibliographic records pertaining to literature, language, linguistics, and folklore, and includes coverage from 1963 to the present.” The MLA database also includes some secondary materials pertaining to the graphic novel and comic book genre.

MLA International Bibliography’s default search screen is an Advanced Search. With an Advanced Search you have a number of search fields so you can combine search terms and keywords, and there are also of ways of limiting your search (for example, you can search for academic journals only, books only, etc.).

It is important to come up with a few solid keyword ideas when searching on MLA. In this case some obvious candidates would be:

- “comic books” (or “comic book”)
- “graphic novels” (or “graphic novel”)
Restricting your search to Academic Journals only would make for a more specific search:
Just like any other database, some of the articles you find will be available in full-text (either a PDF or an HTML link) and some won’t, but you can always attempt to access articles through interlibrary loan if need be.