

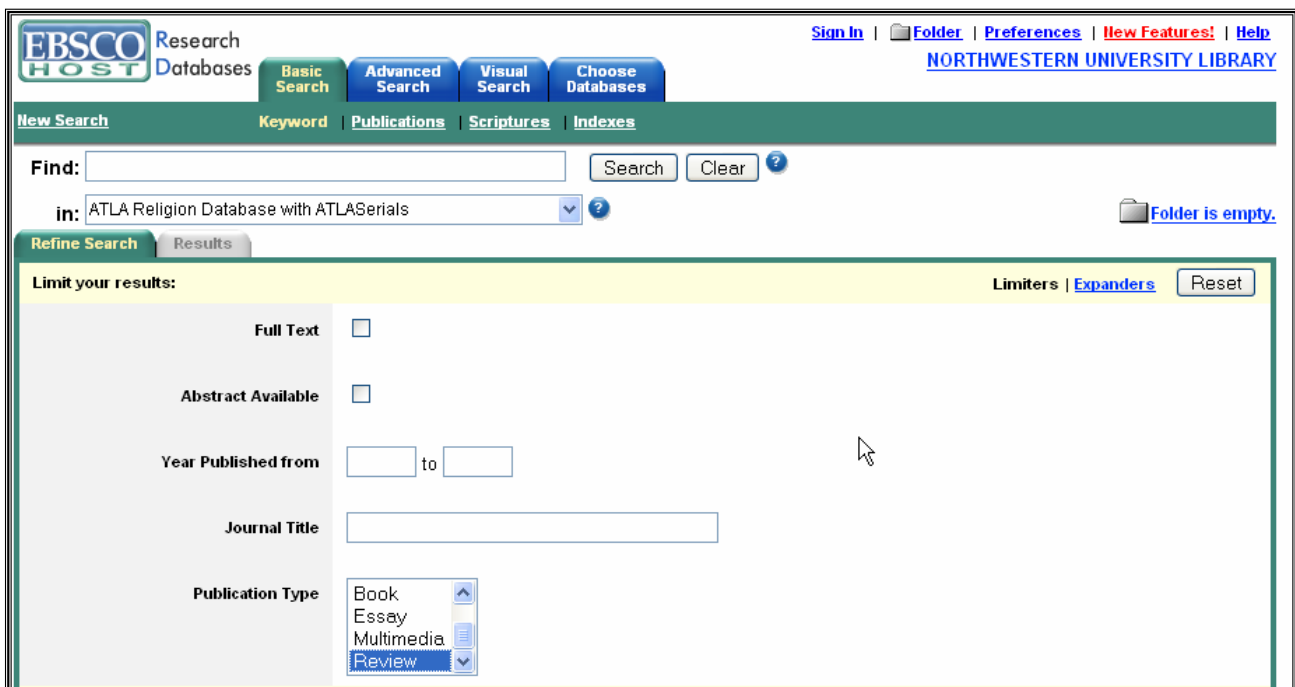
## Finding Book Reviews

So you have heard about the latest controversial book and before you trust the content you want to know how it is seen by scholars – you want a **book review**.

This sounds like an easy question, in fact, the only problem is “how many choices” are available for looking for book reviews. This page will suggest a few ways of searching for book reviews as a start, and if these aren’t sufficient, remember to ask your librarians, we love to help you!

If the content of book is specifically **biblical** or **theological** – try **ATLAS**. This is the database with full-text of the American Theological Library Association. **ATLAS** indexes over 500 periodicals including *Church History*, *Religious Studies Review* and many other standard sources of book reviews. Access the **ATLAS** data base through the link on the United Library webpage (<https://turing.library.northwestern.edu/login?url=http://search.epnet.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip.uid&profile=ehost&defaultdb=rfh>)

Once in the database you can limit your search to “reviews” easily. Just scroll down in the **Publication Type** box, and select “Review.”



The screenshot displays the EBSCO Research Databases search interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Sign In', 'Folder', 'Preferences', 'New Features!', and 'Help'. Below these are buttons for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', 'Visual Search', and 'Choose Databases'. The main search area includes a 'Find:' input field, 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons, and a dropdown menu for the database, currently set to 'ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials'. A 'Folder is empty' message is visible on the right. The 'Refine Search' section is active, showing options to 'Limit your results'. The 'Publication Type' dropdown menu is open, with 'Review' selected. Other options include 'Book', 'Essay', and 'Multimedia'. The 'Year Published from' field is also visible, along with 'Full Text' and 'Abstract Available' checkboxes.

Type the book title in the **Find** box “Chairman Mao” – and you will find reviews of Dr. Khiok-Khng Yeo’s book.

Two other significant Biblical periodical indexes are **New Testament Abstracts** and **Old Testament Abstracts**. Access these from the United Library webpage Databases page. When you enter these databases, select the advanced search option. This screen is similar to the **ATLAS** search screen above, (both are purchased through EBSCO). Do the same scroll down in the **Publication Type** box, select “Review” then search.

If the book is more philosophical, social science or general scholarship, you search **PerAbs** or **JSTOR**.

What is the difference between these two?

**PerAbs**, also known as Periodical Abstracts, offers a collection of abstracts, and reviews – pulled out of a broad range of sources. For example a search may turn up an abstract by the author and a book review by someone else from *Chronicle of Higher Education*. **PerAbs** articles can be current, however, you can’t limit the search to only reviews.

The screenshot shows the 'PerAbs Basic Search' interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Databases', 'Searching', and 'Resource Sharing'. Below that, there's a search bar with 'PerAbs' selected in a dropdown menu. The search criteria include fields for Keyword, Author, Title, Source, and Year, each with a search icon. There are also 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons at the top and bottom of the search area. The current database is identified as 'PerAbs'.

Access **PerAbs** at:

<http://turing.library.northwestern.edu/login?url=http://newfirstsearch.oclc.org/dbname=PerAbs;done=refer:FSIP>

Since the title of the review may be different from the title of the book, type the book title in the keyword box.

**JSTOR** indexes an incredible array of scholarly periodicals across fields from ecology to history, political science or religion and allows you to limit your search to reviews. In contrast to other databases, because of a commitment to full-text **JSTOR**'s moveable wall of "when material is available" – has a median availability date of 3 years after publication, so it may not be as current.

To access from the Northwestern Library Homepage, chose "Electronic Resources" and type **JSTOR** in the "Quick Search" box.

SEARCH | BROWSE | TIPS | SET PREFERENCES | ABOUT JSTOR | CONTACT JSTOR

Your access to JSTOR is provided by Northwestern University

Try the [Faceted Search](#) prototype, now available in the JSTOR Sandbox [EXIT JSTOR](#)

[Basic Search](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Article Locator](#)

### JSTOR Advanced Search [Help](#)

full-text  AND   
 full-text  AND   
 author  AND   
 article title

Search for links to articles outside of JSTOR

**Limit by:**

Type:  Article  Review  Editorial  Other

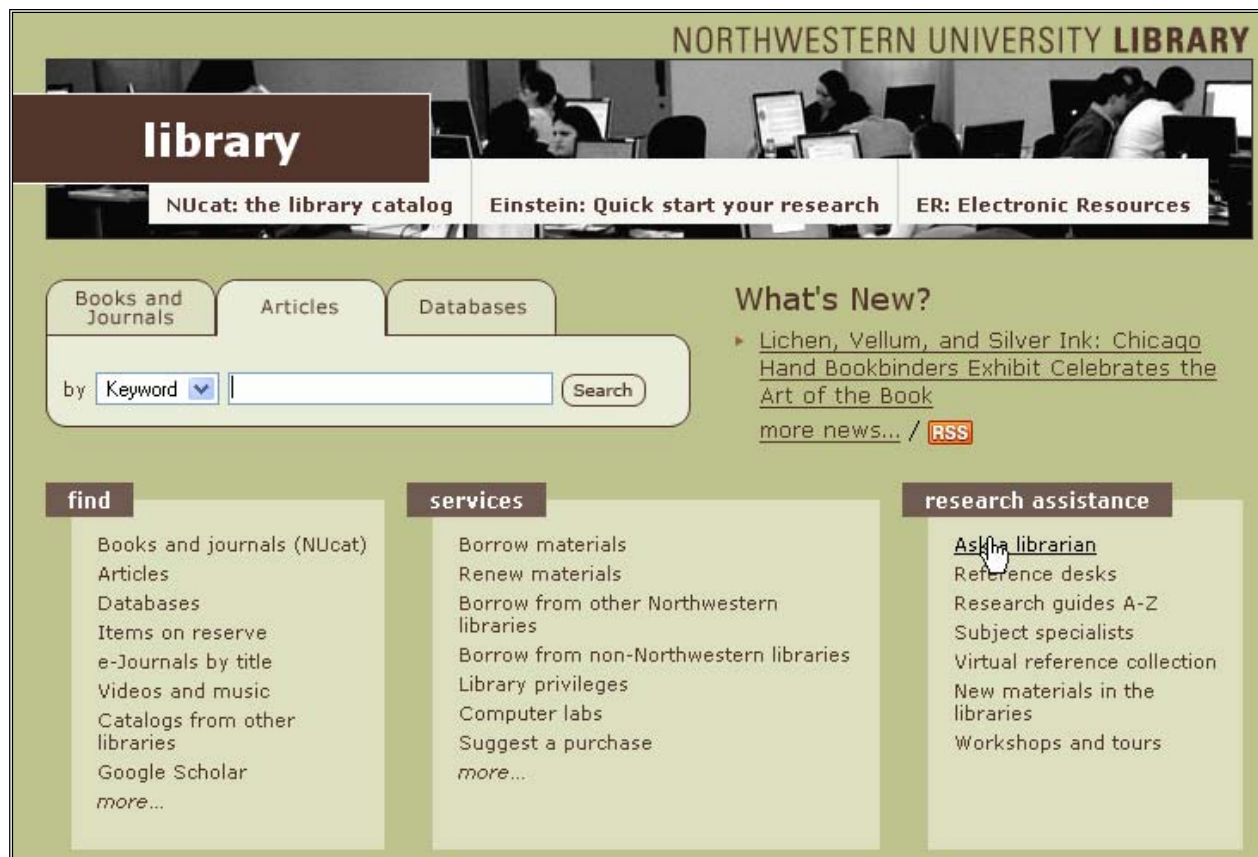
Date Range:  to   
*(specify dates as yyyy, yyyy/mm, or yyyy/mm/dd)*

Article Language:  All languages

Go to Search, then the Advanced Search screen. Click the Review check box near the bottom of the page, enter the book title as a keyword phrase such as the title of the Judith Butler book "Giving an account of oneself"

EINSTEIN is a name for the tool on the NU Library Homepage, in the list of choices “Einstein: Quickstart your research” along the top of the page.

This tool is designed for undergraduates, and searches across several databases. However, it can be useful for scholars, or at least provide a starting place. See FAQ’s on it at <http://www.library.northwestern.edu/help/einstein/faq.html> .



Another entrée to this tool is the **second row** options on the NU Library Homepage – [see image above]. If you chose the “**articles**” tab, and type the book title in the box – that may direct you to a book review. The good news is it searches across several databases, covering innumerable publications. The bad news is there is no way to limit it to only book reviews.