First Year Seminar Support
Voltaire, Rousseau, and the 1755 Lisbon Earthquake:
"The best of all possible worlds?"

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Finding Books

Reference Sources
Reference materials, including encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases, and other collections of information, are valuable resources for quickly identifying key facts or researching background information about a particular event or person. Reference materials are generally found on the first floor of the Smith Library Center; the best way to find out what is available in our reference area is to take some time to go on an exploratory journey around it. For more information about our reference collection, visit the following library web pages: Locating Reference Material and Locating Background Information.

You will use a variety of different disciplines to think about issues for this class. The reference materials cited below are only a tiny sample of the multidisciplinary sources that lie waiting in the reference area.

Philosophy and the Enlightenment
Audi, Robert. *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy* (Reference 103 En 19)
A one-volume encyclopedia containing articles on major philosophers.

"During the Age of the Enlightenment, new values and knowledge reshaped the cultural outlook on religion, politics, and science. This book presents the vast array of individuals, trends, events, and themes of science that made the Enlightenment a time of discovery and excitement in science."

Catholic University of America. *New Catholic Encyclopedia* (Reference 282.03 N43 2003)
Entries about Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Voltaire and Jean Calas. Entries on freedom of religion, pessimism, censorship.

Substantive written entries on Voltaire and Rousseau, and followed by lists of works and further readings.

Delon, Michael. *Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment* (Reference 940.25 D561)
"Covering the art, economics, science, history, philosophy, and religion of the Enlightenment."

The article on Voltaire explores the author's views on religion.

"The Encyclopedia focuses on the entire range of philosophic and social changes engendered by the Enlightenment."

Riley, Patrick. *Cambridge Companion to Rousseau* (Reference 194.51 R762)
Surveys the full range of Rousseau's activities in politics and education, psychology, anthropology, religion, music, and theater.

Relevant articles: Deism, Enlightenment, The Problem of Evil, Leibniz Gottfried, and Toleration

Biographies
Roth, John. *World Philosophers and Their Works.* (Reference 109 W893)

Moncure, James. *Research Guide to European Historical Biography* (Reference 920.04 R311)
Description and evaluation of the most important secondary and primary sources for European historical figures, including Rousseau and Voltaire.

**French Literary History and Criticism**

*Candide is asked to define "optimism." Optimism, he says, is "a mania for saying things are well when one is in hell" (Voltaire, from Candide).


"The essay on Voltaire's life and works credit him with shaping a new literary form—the philosophical tale—into the perfect vehicle for ridiculing the social, political and religious injustices of his time."

Jackson, William. *European Writers: The Age of Reason and the Enlightenment* (Reference 809.894 Eu74 Vol.4)

"Jean Sareil describes Voltaire as "the most representative writer of his age" given he was involved in almost every important event of his time. The article deals with his life and works, including "Candide," the best "of Voltaire's Philosopher Tales."

Draper, James. *Literature Criticism From 1400 to 1800* (Reference 809 L7125 Vol. 14)

The volume introduces portraits of the author's Voltaire and Rousseau, followed by list of principal works, excerpts from criticism of the works, and an annotated bibliography of further readings. A substantive article about the French Enlightenment begins on page 81.

Beaumarchais, Jean-Pierre de, *Dictionnaire des Oeuvres Litteraires de Langue Francaise* (Reference 840.3 B383DI)

Brief to multi-page articles on a broad range of French language literatures and authors.

Draper, James. *World Literature Criticism: 1500 to the Present* (Reference 809.W893)

Hollier, Denis. *A New History of French Literature* (Reference 840.9 N42 1989)


Sheringham, Michael. *French Autobiography: Devices and Desires*

See Chapter 2 on Rousseau's Confessions, pp. 31-66. (Main Collection 848.08 Sh53f)


See entry on pp. 2588-2589. Many of Voltaire's work would be subjected to censorship.

Gale. *Literature Online Resource Center*. Use this tool to locate reference information on authors (Voltaire, Rousseau, Leibniz, etc.) and their works. Find biographies, bibliographies, Web sites and full-text criticism of an author's works and literary career.

**SU Online Catalog and Collections**

You can find books on your topic by searching SU's online library catalog by subject and title keyword. Subject searches target the specific subject headings that have been assigned to the book that the Smith Library Center owns. If you do not know the subject headings that pertain to your topic, you may want to begin with a title keyword search, a search by any word that appears in a book's title. Once you have found a source that you like, look at the subject headings at the bottom of the catalog record to determine the best terms to use in a subject search for further materials. For additional tips on the online catalog, see the library's Guide to Locating Books.

**Books from the SU Collections:**

"I am like no one else in the whole world..." Jean-Jacques Rousseau (*Confessions*, composed between 1765 and 1770).

- Adams, Robert. *The Problem of Evil*
- Brooks, Charles. *Disaster at Lisbon: The Great Earthquake of 1755*
- Bryne, James. *Religion and the Enlightenment: From Descartes to Kant*
- Cooper, Laurence. *Rousseau, Nature, & The Problem of the Good Life*
- Gilbert, Allison. *Covering Catastrophe: Broadcast Journalists Report September 11*
- Johns, Alessa. *Dreadful Visitations: Confronting Natural Catastrophe in the Age of Enlightenment*
- Kendrick, T.D. *The Lisbon Earthquake*
- Lamb, Jonathan. *The Rhetoric of Suffering: Reading the Book of Job in the 18th Century*
- Leigh, R.A. *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century: Rousseau's Letter to Voltaire on Optimism*
- Mason, Hayden. *Candide, Optimism Demolished*
- Neiman, Susan. *Evil in Modern Thought: An Alternative History of Philosophy*
- Ockman, Joan. *Out of Ground Zero: Case Studies in Urban Reinvention*
- Peterson, Michael. *God and Evil: An Introduction to the Issues*
- Quaratelli, E.L. *What is a Disaster? Perspectives on the Question*
- Reeves, Robert. *The Lisbon Earthquake of 1755: Confrontation Between the Church and the Enlightenment in 18th Century Portugal*
- Steinberg, Theodore. *Acts of God: The UnNatural History of Natural Disaster in America*

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*Smith Library Center, First Year Seminar Support  Voltaire, Rousseau, & the 1755 Lisbon Earthquake, Chamier/Parks, p. 2*
• Steizig, Eugene. *The Romantic Subject in Autobiography: Rousseau and Goethe*
• Vereker, Charles. *Eighteenth Century Optimism*
• Woloch, Isser. *Eighteenth Century Europe: Tradition and Progress*

Consider seaching on the following SUBJECT headings for this assignment:

• Enlightenment--France
• Philosophy, French--18th century
• French literature--18th century
• France--Intellectual Life
• Voltaire, 1694-1778
• Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, 1712-1778
• Good and Evil--History
• Religious thought--18th century
• Theodicy
• Natural theology
• Naturalism in literature
• Optimism
• September 11th
• Terrorist Attacks 2001--Social aspects
• Philosophy in literature

**E-books and Interlibrary Loan**

To find eBooks that the library owns, search netLibrary, a service which provides access to free and purchased full text scholarly, reference and professional eBooks from academic and professional publishers. eBooks may be "checked out" for 24 hours. To see the full text of a title you must first create a personal account; you will then receive instructions by email.

To find books available at other libraries, along with some Internet resources, search WorldCat, which is an online catalog listing the holdings of libraries worldwide. You can request books not owned by the Smith Library Center through our Interlibrary Loan service. Allow extra time for the books to be delivered.

**Special Collections**

In addition to the main collection, there is some unique material specifically related to this seminar in Special Collections, both of which are primary sources.

"A lady should be able to identify plants herself!"--Jean-Jacques Rousseau


While touring Europe (1763), Boswell met French intellectual Rousseau, of whom he wrote a biographical sketch, and Voltaire.


Volume 4 includes material related to Voltaire and Rousseau. You can read more about the discovery of the Boswell archives at [http://www.geocities.com/sschaeff/discoveryofboswellarchives.htm](http://www.geocities.com/sschaeff/discoveryofboswellarchives.htm).

**Finding Articles**

Your instructor may ask you to include "academic, refereed sources, and become familiar with the library and its holdings." Note that "academic," "scholarly" and "peer-reviewed" are synonyms -- all referring to articles that have been written by an academic expert in a field for an academic audience, and that the article has been reviewed by other experts to ensure its worthiness for publication. Advice on how to evaluate different kinds of periodicals (academic journals, magazines, newspapers, general interest) can be found on the library's web guide [Distinguishing Scholarly Journals](http://www.geocities.com/sschaeff/discoveryofboswellarchives.htm).

The library's databases are the best sources for journal articles. To find journal articles on your topic, follow these steps:

1. Select the database you want to search. The library subscribes to over 100 electronic databases that index topics in a variety of disciplines. A complete listing of all our electronic databases, with descriptions, can be found at the [Databases A-Z](http://www.geocities.com/sschaeff/discoveryofboswellarchives.htm) page.

2. Once you have searched for your topic in a database, you will have a list of citations. A citation gives you all the information you need to look up the article: the title of the article, author, name of the journal, volume, issues, pages and date.

3. Many of our databases include links to full-text versions of articles cited. Our [Full-Text Journal Links](http://www.geocities.com/sschaeff/discoveryofboswellarchives.htm) page lists those journals for which we have full-text access. If a particular article you need is not available in an online full-text version, search the library's catalog to find out if the library owns the periodical in which the article appeared and where in the library the periodical is located.
4. If the Smith Library Center does not have the journal in print or full-text online format, you may use our Interlibrary Loan Services to obtain a copy of the article from another library. Allow extra time for your article to be delivered.

General Databases:
You may wish to begin your research in a general database like Academic Search Premier or ArticleFirst, which index articles from a wide variety of subjects from scholarly and professional journals, popular magazines, and news sources. Both of these databases include full-text versions of many, but not all, articles.

- **Academic Search Premier.** A multi-disciplinary, full text database designed specifically for academic institutions that includes full text for over 3,970 scholarly publications and indexing for nearly 4,406 scholarly journals, many dating back to 1984. Full-page images, as well as color embedded images, are included.

- **ArticleFirst.** An index of bibliographic citations from the table of contents pages of approximately 12,600 journals in science, technology, medicine, social sciences, business, the humanities, and popular culture. Full-text versions of many articles, in either HTML or PDF format, are included. For most items, a list of subscribing libraries is provided.

Subject Specific Databases:
After searching in a general database to see what kind of topics are available, you may need to move to a subject specific database to find more specific articles on your topic. The databases listed here are particularly useful for your course.

- **ARTFL.**--full-texts of major literary works in French.
- **ATLA.**--journal literature in religion.
- **JSTOR.**--full-text of back issues of scholarly journals in the social sciences.
- **Historical Abstracts.**--book and journal literature in world history.
- **Modern Language Association Bibliography.**--books, journal literature and dissertations in literature.
- **OCLC FirstSearch.**--a collection of databases, including:
  - **Arts and Humanities Search.**--citation database.
  - **Humanities Abstracts.**--journal literature in philosophy, religion, literature and world history.
  - **WorldCat.**--books and other library materials.
- **Philosopher's Index.**--book and journal literature in philosophy.
- **Project Muse.**--some full-text philosophy journals.

Finding Internet Resources
Although there is an incredible amount of information available on the Internet, much of the information may be unreliable. Whereas journal articles and books have undergone a rigorous review process, most of the information posted on the WWW has not been checked by any authority, other than the owner of the Web site. To learn more about how to evaluate web sites critically, visit the library's web guide Evaluating Information on the Web.

You may also wish to use WorldCat, an online catalog listing the holdings of libraries worldwide, as you can identify high-quality online resources by doing an Advanced Search on your topic and limiting the type of materials to "Internet Resources." The Librarian's Index to the Internet is another excellent source of "reliable, trustworthy, librarian-resources," organized by subject. The library's Web Reference Sources page provides links to this and many other useful Internet resources.

General Reference

- **Epistemelinks: Comprehensive Philosophy Links**
- **Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy**
- **Internet Modern History Sourcebook**
  The page is divided into two major parts, "The Enlightenment" and "Religion in an Age of Reason," both of which are further subdivided into specific sections.

On the Lisbon Earthquake

- **Historical Depictions of the 1755 Lisbon Earthquake**
- **Images of the Lisbon Earthquake**
- **The Lisbon Fallacy**

On the Problem of Evil

- **The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy**
  Online article titled The Logical Problem of Evil

Rousseau--Romantic View of Nature as Reflected in the 18th Century

- **Rousseau--Worship of Nature**

Voltaire--Religion and Philosophy

- **The Origin of Religious Tolerance: Voltaire**
A Selection of September 11th Web Sites

- September 11th News Archives
- September 11 Digital Archive
- The Days After: Reactions by our authors in the aftermath
- The World After September 11th by Noam Chomsky

Citing Your Sources

Your research isn't complete until you correctly cite your sources!

Style manuals provide you with practical information for preparing your paper. The four commonly used systems of documentation include: MLA, used in English and the humanities; APA, used in psychology and the social sciences; Chicago, used primarily in history; and CBE, used in the sciences. All of these manuals can be found in Reference and the general collection. Many professors and departments prefer different style manuals; check with your professor for the correct manual.

For guidelines on preparing bibliographies and footnotes, download the printed handouts Citing Internet Resources and Citing Print Resources, as well as the library's web guide to Citing Your Sources--Print and Electronic Style Guides. All of this citing is meant to give credit to the authors of the sources you used and to enable a reader of your paper to locate these sources. Neglecting to acknowledge material from outside sources in your writing is plagiarism, a violation of Southwestern University's honor code as described in the Student Handbook. For more information, see the library's guide to Keeping It Honest: Avoiding Plagiarism.

For example, to document an article or other material accessed through a library or institutional subscription service, see "The MLA Style" web site. The site provides you with current information on how to cite a particular resource.

Citation from the library subscription database Ingenta:

Nature's Impartiality, Man's Inhumanity: Reflections on Terrorism and World Crisis in a Context of Historical Disaster  
Alexander D.  
Blackwell Publishing

Abstract:
This paper compares the terrorist outrages of 11 September 2001 in New York City and Washington to the Lisbon earthquake of 1 November 1755. Both events occurred, literally out of the blue, at critical junctures in history and both struck at the heart of large trading networks. Both affected public attitudes towards disaster as, not only did they cause unparalleled destruction, but they also represented symbolic victories of chaos over order, and of moral catastrophism over a benign view of human endeavour. The Lisbon earthquake led to a protracted debate on teleology, which has some parallels in the debate on technological values in modern society. It remains to be seen whether there will be parallels in the reconstruction and the ways in which major disasters are rationalised in the long term. But despite the differences between these two events -- which are obviously very large as nearly 250 years of history separate them and they were the work of different sorts of forces -- there are lessons to be learned from the comparison. One of these is that disaster can contribute to a perilous form of self-absorption and cultural isolation.

MLA Style: