

**Subject:** A guide to the Movies. This electronic guide lists 21 of the best and most useful movie databases, review systems, and resources to help patrons find exactly the right movie or cinematic entertainment article that they are looking for. Many parents come to the library looking for movies to take on road trips with their children, students looking for a Halloween horror fest when all the known movies are checked out, or people who like movies about dogs want to see all the movies about dogs. This guide should help with those and many other reference problems that have come with the categorization and explanation of movies.

**Library Guide for:** Dominican University/Academic Libraries, Adults. This guide is useful primarily to adults because the content is not restricted to films and media that are rated for all audiences and also includes teaching and learning aids. Some of the resources contain academic terms and require access to academic databases. I chose Dominican University because going through the guides they have listed, there is currently no guide for movies or entertainment and it would be a benefit to teachers, students, and future librarians.



1 **IMDb**, Internet Movie Database. Website accessible online: <http://www.imdb.com/>. IMDb is an online database featuring many films, television, and special programs that are searchable by title, cast, crew, or subject. This site has several features available for free, but more in depth searches can be conducted with a subscription. Entries are made by production companies, Director and Screen Actors Guild certifications, and by the cast and crew with verified production details. Reviews can be written and read by anyone who signs up for a free membership. Notable details provide star ratings, run times, and release dates. Authority: details of entries verified by facts from production publications or company, not editable by layman.



2 **Metacritic**. Website accessible online: <http://www.metacritic.com/>. Metacritic is an online rating database featuring films, television, games and music. This resource is best used for finding lists of movies that are coming to DVD soon, lists of the best rated movies, and lists of what is available online for streaming sorted by highest rated. Because of the extensive streaming databases, this resource can also be used to determine which type of streaming service has the content you are looking for before purchasing. At the time of writing, it has listings for Netflix, Amazon, and Hulu. Authority: details of entries written by professional critics.



3 **Newspaper Source**. Database accessible via Rebecca Crown Library. Newspaper Source features articles about movies and film such as filming locations and reviews. This resource is a database of several newspaper articles from over 250 different newspapers. Articles feature independent movies as well as large scale productions and can provide personal or situational details about the films that were not

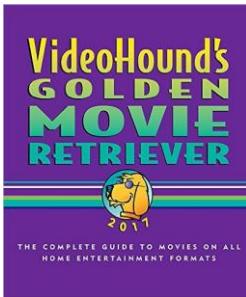
covered in the production details to be listed in other databases. Authority: articles written in database from details provided by production companies or actors.



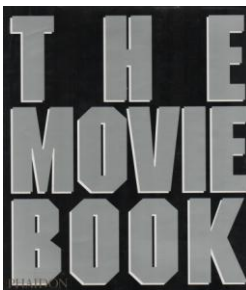
4 **Communication & Mass Media Complete.** Database accessible via Rebecca Crown Library. This resource contains scholarly papers on filmmaking technical aspects and criticisms. If you were wondering about silent movies and Mexican culture or product placement in Tom Cruise films, this is the resource to search for questions. Since the articles are varied, using generic keywords like women, movie, and influence would get you the best results for subjects. Authority: articles, mostly opinion, written by those in academic professions.



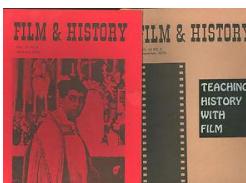
5 **Filmmakers Library Online.** Database accessible via Rebecca Crown Library or online: <http://search.alexanderstreet.com.dom.idm.oclc.org/flo>. This database contains a number of smaller scale productions searchable by production authority, keyword, multidisciplinary, or year. If you are looking for public access videos or historical documentary footage, this resource contains a number of digitized clips that would be helpful. Authority: entries include video clips with citations posted after review by Filmmakers Library Online board.



6 **VideoHound's Golden Movie Retriever.** Print book published yearly with date on cover. VideoHound contains a listing of all movies that have been printed to laserdisc, video, or DVD. Since this book is printed yearly, libraries may have an outdated version and would not include that year's publications. Every year, 1,000 plus movies are added. Movies are searchable in several different indexes by title, alternate title, editor rating, year released, MPAA rating, cast, length, country, awards, and more. This reference is most useful to people not comfortable with Internet searches and parents who are looking for specifically G or PG rated movies. I give a personal recommendation for ease of use and can attest that this book has saved our family many arguments for what to rent. Authority: entries published from details given by production or reproduction companies.



7 **The Movie Book**, edited by Manuel Alvarado. Print book published 1999. The Movie Book contains color stills to films and movies with entries for influential film directors, stars, screenwriters, composers, animators, make-up artists and producers. Although the content is limited to the date of publishing, the listing for the careers and influence of certain creators and actors is a good aid for those wishing to find a movie that has a certain look or style. The color stills make it very simple to thumb through the book and find suggestions for titles to look into based on interest. Authority: selections chosen by the editor of notable films and actors.



8 **Film & History.** Academic Journal published 1971 to present. The articles in this journal are about the effects of film and how it is being shaped by history, and how history is being shaped by film and other media. The content contains editorials as

well as reviews of film, television, and relevant books related to the film and movie industry. Many of the articles contained in this journal are aimed at those familiar with the technical terminology and criticism of the film industry. Authority: articles about the repercussions and effects of the industry written by academics.

## IFILM CRITICISM

9 **Film Criticism.** Academic Journal published 1976 to present. The articles in this journal are reviews and criticisms of films written by current film historians and theorists from many different disciplines. The reviews are varied from local to blockbuster films and all are searchable in full text through various databases (see year for which database in EBSCO). All of the reviews in this journal tend to tackle broad issues like identity, gender, or dystopia, instead of reviews on technique or storyline. Authority: articles about the industry written by academics.

10 **Rotten Tomatoes.** Website accessible online:

<https://www.rottentomatoes.com/>. Rotten Tomatoes is to movies what Goodreads is to books. Anyone can sign up and write a review of a movie that adds to the overall rating of the movie. Because of the large user database, Rotten Tomatoes has a trusted rating system that represents the majority of the population on major movies. When searching for lesser known movies, the rating system is questionable, however, the content in the summary of what the movie is about and the production details are reliable. Authority: reviews written by general public.



11 **Filmratings.com.** Website accessible online: <http://www.filmratings.com/>. This website is very basic in providing just the title, year, and rating of the film. This resource is especially helpful to parents and teachers of young children who are looking to see if a film has content mindful of younger ages. Teachers who are looking to show a film to a class would find this website very useful for the simple format and little details. If children are suggesting movies they would like to watch, they can search the site with ease and receive no summary or images. This site is provided by the Classification and Ratings Administration so there are a lot of titles that can be searched. Authority: entries provided by Motion Picture Association of America.



12 **Kids in Mind.** Website accessible online: <http://www.kids-in-mind.com/>. As a collaboration of critics.com and mediascreen.com, this family friendly website uses meter graphics to display the levels of nudity, violence, and profanity are contained in certain movies. Although the listings are somewhat difficult to search, overall the content is very useful to adults who do not want to watch content that could be viewed as obscene. A number of religious radio programs get their reviews from this website. It does offer a subscription service to eliminate ads, however, using a popup blocker in my browser, I did not see any ads. The site is organized by theatrical release date so the most current in theaters will be on the front page. Authority: reviews written by Kids in Mind organization could be subjective.





13 **Fandango**. Website accessible online: <http://www.fandango.com/movie-reviews>. One aspect of the popular ticket purchasing agency is the movie review section. Combining the results of Fandango reviews, Rotten Tomatoes, and Common Sense Media, Fandango provides three different rating possibilities with each link to the movies. The downside of this service is that only movies currently in the theater are searchable. Authority: reviews written by general public.



14 **Common Sense Media**. Website accessible online: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>. This resource is specifically aimed at parents with children. Aside from reviews, the website offers criticisms like the effects of whitewashing or gender stereotyping in movies, guides to watch a movie and discuss with children, and podcasts that go along with the same ideas presented in certain movies. Unlike many other websites about movies, this one reads more like a learning tool for parents to engage their children after what they have seen. The website also has different pages available for educators and advocates via tabs at the top of the site. The educator page offers teaching guides and discussion questions. The advocate page has a listing of current legislation that affects children and cinema. The website is non-partisan advocating only for children's rights. Authority: content written by Common Sense Media with teaching and learning aides.



15 **Empire**. Magazine accessible in print or online: <http://www.empireonline.com/us/>. Empire is a periodical that focuses on actors and productions. Although they review content, the features are mainly updates of current productions and interviews with cast and crew involved. It is a good place to look for behind the scenes information on upcoming films. Authority: Content written by journalists with information provided by production companies or actors.



16 **Slant**. Magazine accessible in print or online: <http://www.slantmagazine.com/film>. Slant is a periodical that reviews independent as well as major distributor films. Once considered edgy, Slant often features reviews about specific film styles in harsh criticism or stringent praise. The website offers a fraction of the graphic picture content featured in the print edition, although there are a significant number of online only articles on the website. This magazine also reviews television, music, dvd releases, and games. Authority: opinion and reviews written by journalists.



17 **Variety**. Magazine accessible in print or online: <http://variety.com/>. Variety is a periodical that can be hit or miss for valuable content. Sometimes, the articles are very hard-hitting and the content is relevant while other times it seems like they just needed to fill the pages. Published by Hearst, this magazine has a large budget to get exclusive interviews and content. Since the magazine puts out different editions by country, the online site features all of the articles for viewing or searching via a

country drop down box. Variety offers a number of articles that feature journalistic criticisms and is widely considered a philosophical digest of the industry. Authority: content written by journalists from each country, content may be regionally subjective.