CINEMATIC ARTS LIBRARY – HORROR FILM HISTORY/THEORY

This pathfinder is meant as a research guide for students and faculty of the School of Cinematic Arts, researchers and scholars. The resources listed are meant for research using the Doheny Memorial-Cinematic Arts Library in the topic of history and theory of horror film.

Getting Started

Try these helpful tips for searching the USC Libraries HOMER catalog.

- Filter your search within the search box to **library:** Cinema/TV from dropdown.
- Try the following **subject** searches (remove hyphens for HOMER search):
  - Horror films--History and criticism
  - Horror films--United States--History and criticism
  - Horror films--Encyclopedias
  - Horror films--Italy--History and criticism
  - Horror films--Catalogs
  - Horror films--History and criticism--Periodicals
  - Horror films--Great Britain--History and criticism
  - Horror films—History and criticism--Bibliography
- Focus on these **call numbers** while browsing the library's shelves.
  - PN1995.9.A457 (Alien films)
  - PN1995.9.H6 (Horror films)
  - PN1995.9.Z63 (Zombie films)
  - PN1995.9.S554 (Slasher films)
  - PN56.H6 (Horror)

Books

Encyclopedia & Reference

Historical Dictionary of Horror Cinema by Peter Hutchings. Call# PN1995.9.H6H836 2008
Great companion covering horror film from the early 20th century to 2007. Contains hundred of cross-referenced entries.

Science fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Reference : an Annotated Bibliography of Works about Literature and Film by Keith L. Justice. Call # Z5917.S36J86 1989
Search index by subject, title or author. Provides a bibliography of recommended secondary sources of research. Check out Section 7: Television Film and Radio.

The Encyclopedia of Horror Movies by Tom Milne. Call # PN1995.9.H6M5 1986
Organized by time period, the book contains an international compilation of films from 1896-1986.

By Period

Hollywood Horror: From Gothic to Cosmic by Mark Vieira. Call# PN1995.9.H6V58 2003
Divides the genre by Gothic, Psychic, Atomic and Cosmic from 1923-1968. Comparison of world events and their influence on films of the time. Contains some of the best film photos of any other research book.

The Hollywood Horror Film, 1931-1941 : Madness in a Social Landscape by Reynold Humphries. Call # PN1995.9.H6H78 2006
A key text for horror films of the 1930's and their impact from a sociologists viewpoint. Check out the chronological list of films from 1931-1941.

I was a Cold War Monster : Horror Films, Eroticism, and the Cold War Imagination by Cynthia Hendershot. Call # PN1995.9.H6H46 2001
Explains through essays how Cold War anxiety was reflected in the horror films of the 1950s and 1960s.

Horror Films of the 1980s by John Kenneth Muir. Call # PN1995.9.H6M86 2007
The award winning author outlines 300 films of the 1980's with credits, synopsis and critical commentary paralleling current events with the films. See also the award winning *Horror Films of the 1970s* by Muir.

Databases

Please note: If you are accessing the databases off-campus, you will need your USC Username and Password to log in.

Film & Television Literature Index with Full Text
Now that you know some of the subject headings try the SU Subject Terms search and enter one or a mix of subject topics (see Getting Started). Also, try the TX –All Text search option and search "history of horror".

FIAF International Index to Film Periodicals Plus
Access to 300,000 articles from 300 academic and popular film journals. Allows searching of article text by keywords.

American Film Institute Catalog
AFI's resource of American film from 1893-1972.

E-Journals

Try searching **Title contains all words: horror** from USC Libraries e-journal link.

The Irish Journal of Gothic and Horror Studies
Search "Articles" which contain works on horror film theory. Contributors are professors and scholars.

Articles

The following can be accessed via the **Film & Television Literature Index with Full Text** database.

Conrich, Ian. (2004). Before sound: Universal, silent cinema, and the last of the horror spectaculars. In Stephen Price (Eds.), *Horror Films* (40-57). New Jersey: Rutgers University Press.

Archives at USC

Use these as primary sources of research.

Warner Bros. Archives Contact curator at (213) 748-7747 for appointment.
The largest studio collection in the world. Contains scripts, photos and other original documents.

Performing Arts Archive
Studio collections from MGM, Universal Studios, Twentieth Century-Fox, Hal Roach, Republic Pictures and Carolco Pictures.

Off-Campus Resources

Online

Filmsite.org
http://www.filmsite.org/horrorfilms.html
Check out the "Horror Film" section, which contains a timeline with explanations and examples of each period.

Publishers

The Scarecrow Press, Inc.
http://www.scarecrowpress.com/
Scarecrow Press offers as extensive selection of reference publications in subject of horror film theory. The books are used in a variety of academic settings. Authors in the genre of horror film theory such as Mikel J. Koven, Barry Grant and Peter Hutchings are University academics and respected in the arena of film theory.

McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers
http://www.mcfarlandpub.com/
McFarland offers an extensive variety of horror film theory and reference books including the Booklist recommended *Gorehound's Guide to Splatter Films of the 1980's*. The publisher is a trusted source of award winning scholarly and reference materials. Some award winning titles in the genre of horror films from the publisher includes *Horror Films of the 1970's* (Booklist Editors Choice. ALA Outstanding Reference Book) and *The Christopher Lee Filmography*.