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Wilson's Short Story Index (Review)

Elizabeth McKeigue
Santa Clara University, emckeigue@gmail.com

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but that information can be slightly misleading, and it's best you decide for yourself once you're at the site itself. Furthermore, the site selection process conducted by the Web Feet editors and its advisory board involves the deliberate omission of adult content and otherwise objectionable material.

The Bottom Line: Web Feet Online is a functional Internet subject guide, a truly useful resource for finding solid, trustworthy web sites. Recommended for school, public, and academic libraries.— *Enrique Diaz, Information Technology Svcs., Harvard Coll. Lib.*

WEB WILSON'S SHORT STORY INDEX

H.W. Wilson (800-367-6770; custserv@hwwilson.com). www.hwwilson.com

Date reviewed: 4/22/01
Price: Negotiated by site.

Wilson's Short Story Index provides electronic access to the entire contents of the past three print volumes, covering stories published from 1984 through 1998. It also includes references to stories published in 1999. There are approximately 77,000 citations, compiled from 3610 short story collections and 155 periodicals listed in *Humanities Index* and *Readers'*

Guide to Periodical Literature. In addition, 1350 of these provide a link to the full text. Access points are via author, title, and subject for stories from collections and anthologies, via author and title only for stories from periodicals.

I started my search using "Search Plus," which offers some powerful options beyond a basic "Search." In Search Plus it's possible to limit by publication year ("any," "2001 only," or a "from" range). A "subject" access point is useful for searching by a particular genre, but bear in mind that a search by subject finds only stories in collections or anthologies. A good way to start a search is by using the "browse" feature, especially when approaching a search for an author with a common last name.

To edit and run a search again, you must click "search history" from the menu in the top right screen corner. (The "back" button on your browser won't work.) From search history, you have to click several

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more times to get to a place where you can edit your search, but at this point, the only way to edit is to enter the delimiters in Boolean language in a free-text box. I gave up on "search history," clicked "Search Plus," and started all over again several times. An easier way to go back to the original "Search Plus" search screen would be a welcome enhancement.

Wilson doesn't group this file with its other full-text resources, because the percentage of full-text stories is so small (this is for a number of understandable reasons, from negotiating permissions to the technical challenges of print to online conversions). There are plans to offer more full text in the future for all Wilson indexes, but full text is considered a bonus rather than a major selling point for the file. I was excited to have even two percent of the full text online, and hope to see more!

The Bottom Line: Full text is nice, but **Short Story Index's** real appeal is its ability to search the past 15-plus years of short story publications quickly, easily, and powerfully, in one place—a major step up from flipping pages through the multivolume print index. Strongly recommended for academic, public, and high school libraries.—*Elizabeth McKeigue, Access Svcs., Widener Lib., Harvard Univ.*