

# Finding What You Need ... About Literary Criticism

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SCCC students often need to find critical information about literary works and biographical information about writers.



## REFERENCE WORKS

Use reference sources;

- To become familiar with literary terms and genres
- To find background information about works and writers.

Literary reference works are located in the 800 area of the reference section. Examples are -

R 810 Ame American Writers

This source provide biographical and critical essays and sources for study.

R 809.2 Mac Encyclopedia of World Drama

R 820.9 Tem A Library of Literary Criticism: Modern British Literature

R 810.9 Mac Magill's Survey of American Literature

R 809.3 Mac Magill's Survey of World Literature

These series provide summaries and critical discussions of major American and international literary works.

Oxford Companions to -

R 810.3 Har American Literature

R 820.9 Dra English Literature

R 810.32 Oxf Canadian Literature

R 810.9 Oxf Women's Literature

R 822.3 Sha Shakespeare for Students

This source provides plot and character summaries for Shakespeare's plays. It also provides critical discussions and sources for further study.

R 820.9 Twe Twentieth-Century Children's Writers

## R 809.89282 Wri Writers for Children

The following are particularly good sources of critical and biographical information, providing a variety of views on the works of many writers. To find information about a writer, select the series most appropriate to his or her work. Then find a volume of the series that has a cumulative index. The index will tell you which volumes of the series provide information about the writer.

R 809.005 Cla Classical and Medieval Literary Criticism

R 089.04 CLC Contemporary Literary Criticism

R 813.01 DLB Dictionary of Literary Biography

R 809.1 Poe Poetry Criticism

R 809.3 Sho Short Story Criticism

R 809.004 TCLC Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism

## **BOOKS**

Use the on-line catalog to find books.

- Search by the author's name to find books by that writer in the collection.
- Search for specific works by title.
- Annotated works and those noted to be 'critical editions', such as the Norton Critical series, are a good source of criticism.
- Searching by the author's name as the subject of the search will retrieve biographical and critical information about the writer's works.
- Searching for a specific title as a subject will find critical information on the work.
- Search for criticism of specific genres, such as science fiction, by subject.
- The 'Twayne', 'Bloom' and 'Cambridge' series are intended for undergraduates and provide a good introduction to criticism.

Literature and literary criticism are in the 800 area of the library.

## **PERIODICAL INDEXES AND ONLINE INFORMATION**

Use the following indexes to locate articles in magazines and newspapers.

O – online            P - Print

### Academic Search Premier (O)

Search peer-reviewed information for scholarly criticism.

### Book Review Digest/Book Review Index (P)

These indexes provide citations to book reviews and is a good source of reviews of older works.

### Credo (O)

This online reference source provides dictionaries, encyclopedias and books of quotations, which makes it a good resource for literature and writing assignments.

### Facts on File (O)

The literature section provides capsule biographies and descriptions of works. It is also useful for its glossary and character descriptions.

### Historical New York Times (O)

This database goes back to 1854, and is a great way to find Times book reviews of older books.

### Humanities Index (P)

Provides citations to articles in the professional literature of the humanities, including literature.

### JSTOR (O) - in-library use only

This source provides the full-text of articles from scholarly journals, and is an excellent source of retrospective articles.

### LION—Literature Online (O)

This resource provides articles and supporting information about works of literature and information about writers. It is a good place to start your search, as all the articles are scholarly and about literature.

### Newsbank (O)

This source allows access to major regional newspapers, such as the Star-Ledger and Boston Globe, and is a good source of book reviews.

### ProQuest (O)

Use 'Newspapers' or 'National Newspapers' to find book reviews. 'Research Library' lets you to find reviews in magazines. To focus your search, you can limit your search to scholarly journals for critical information or limit your search to the 'Humanities' module.

### Short Story Index (O)

This helps you locate short stories in anthologies and collections.

The library subscribes to magazines and journals that feature literary criticism and book reviews. Refer to the list of “Periodicals by Subject.”

### **INTERNET**

BUBL LINK: Language, Literature and Culture – [bubl.ac.uk](http://bubl.ac.uk) (go to ‘Literature and Rhetoric’).

Best Information on the Net – [library.sau.edu/bestinfo/](http://library.sau.edu/bestinfo/) (Go to ‘Resources by Major.’)

Camelot Project (Arthurian texts and information) –  
[www.lib.rochester.edu/CAMELOT](http://www.lib.rochester.edu/CAMELOT)

Chaucer Metapage – [www.unc.edu/depts/chaucer](http://www.unc.edu/depts/chaucer)

Digital Librarian (links to author pages and full-text sources; go to ‘Literature’) –  
[www.digital-librarian.com](http://www.digital-librarian.com)

Domestic Goddesses, a.k.a. “Scribbling Mobs of Women” -  
<http://www.womenwriters.net/domesticgoddess/>

English Literature on the Web  
[www.lang.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/EngLit.html](http://www.lang.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/EngLit.html)

Henry James’ Scholars Guide to Websites—  
<http://www2.newpaltz.edu/~hathaway/>

Internet Public Library – [www.ipl.org](http://www.ipl.org) (Go to ‘Literary Criticism’ under ‘Special Collections’)

Librarians’ Index to the Internet (choose ‘Literature’) – [lii.org](http://lii.org) (Go to ‘Arts and Humanities.’)

Links to Places Literary – [www.dundee.ac.uk/english/linksliterary.htm](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/english/linksliterary.htm)

Literary Resources on the Net – [andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/](http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/)

Luminarium (Medieval, Renaissance and 17<sup>th</sup> Century Literature) –  
[www.luminarium.org/](http://www.luminarium.org/)

Mr. William Shakespeare and the Internet – [shakespeare.palomar.edu](http://shakespeare.palomar.edu)

Poetry Foundation—[www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)

Voice of the Shuttle (literature) – [vos.ucsb.edu/](http://vos.ucsb.edu/)

Please see the reference librarian if you need help.

Angela Camack - 6/09