English and American Literature Subject Guide

Looking for Background Information? Start Here!
Use these resources to get started, verify facts, consult an author’s biography, or read critical essays about an author’s creative works.

Background Information Sources:

Print:

Electronic:
- [Literature Research Center](#) - find author biographies and critical essays
- [MasterFILES](#) - find literary criticisms and overviews
- [Academic Search Premier](#) - find book reviews
- [Academic OneFile](#) – find critical essays

Looking for Research Articles? Start with these Electronic Resources/Databases

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General:

**Academic Search Premier** – a multidisciplinary database with citations and some full text articles from journals, including those in literary studies. It searches for periodicals, books, and primary source documents.

**Academic OneFile** – use its Advanced Search option to find criticism about a particular author’s works. Select “critical essay” as a document type.

Special:

**Arts & Humanities Search** - citations from more than 1300 sources (books and periodicals).

**Literature Resource Center** – full-text biographical, bibliographical, and critical analysis of more than 10,000 authors from every time period and genre; works’ overviews and plot lines; useful websites; and a literary-historical timeline. It allows searching by author, title, keyword, and authors by type (literary movement, genre, gender or ethnicity).

Electronic journals in American Literature

- **American drama**
- **American literature**
- **American poetry review**
- **Early American literature**
- **Southern literary journal**
- **Studies in American fiction**

Electronic journals in English Literature

- **Early modern literary studies**
- **English literary renaissance**
- **Medieval & Renaissance drama in England**
- **Review of English studies**
- **Studies in English literature, 1500-1900**
- **Victorian studies**

To access these (and more) online journals, go to **Find** on the library home page, select **Find an Article** and click on **Find a Journal**. Type in the journal title in the search box.
E-Books

**EBSCOhost E-Book Collection**: use this resource to find books full-text online. They include *Literary Theories: A Reader and Guide*, *British Women Writing Fiction*, *Linguistics: A Guide to the Reference Literature*, and many others. Search the collection by title or keyword.

E-books can also be found through the library online catalog. Examples: *The Cambridge Introduction to American Literary Realism*, *A Dictionary of Literary Symbols*, *A History of Feminist Literary Criticism*, and many others.

**Looking for a printed book in literature? Try these LC call number ranges**

- PN 1-6790 Literature (General)
- PN 80-99 Criticism
- PN441 – 1009.5 Literary History
- PN1010-1525 Poetry
- PN1600-3307 Drama
- PR1098-1369 English Literature
- PR 1490-6076 Individual authors by period
- PS 501-688 American Literature
- PS 700-3576 Individual authors by period

Books in Literature section are shelved by century, literary period (e.g. Romanticism) or language (e.g. Romantic Literature, Germanic Literature), and within alphabetically by author. Works by and about an author are shelved together.

**Selected Websites**

**Collections of literary works online**

- **Literary Resources on the Net** – by Jack Lynch, an associate professor at the English Department of Rutgers University; an extensive coverage of literary web sites; links to literary criticism, guides, bibliographies, newsgroups, electronic journals, and literary texts.
- **Voice of the Shuttle, English Literature** - an excellent comprehensive site for information on general humanities; links to literary criticism, guides, bibliographies, newsgroups, electronic journals, literary texts, and web sites about particular authors and periods.
- **The Internet Public Library** - links to online versions of the original works of contemporary fiction.

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Internet Public Library Literary Criticism - critical and biographical websites about authors and their works that can be browsed by author, by title, or by nationality and literary period.

Project Gutenberg - the first and largest single collection of free electronic books, fiction and reference.

The Online Books Page - a collection of online books created by the University of Pennsylvania faculty, contains an index of thousands of online books available on the Internet, provides pointers to online directories, archives of online texts, and exhibits of particularly interesting classes of online books (including prize winning and banned books).

Project Bartleby Archive - free access to online full text of fiction, nonfiction, verse, and reference sources; links to reputable reference editions such as American Heritage Dictionary, Roget II Thesaurus, Columbia World of Quotations, and many others.

Bibliomania - a very comprehensive site with free online texts of poems, short stories, drama, classic novels by international authors, study guides, reference materials, biographies, and much more.

Eighteenth-Century Studies - archived works of the eighteenth century from the perspectives of literary and cultural studies; novels, plays, memoirs, treatises and poems of the period, as well as modern criticism.

Glossary of Literary Terms

Professional Societies and Associations

The American Literature Association (ALA)

The Academy of American Poets

Association of Literary Scholars, Critics and Writers (ALSCW)

Modern Language Association of America (MLA)

Need help citing your sources?

Use this helpful book:

Or visit Oregon Tech Library’s Citing Your Sources page and select MLA (Modern Language Association) citation style.

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