

Ferdinand D. Bluford Library

A SELECTIVE GUIDE TO MATERIALS AND RESOURCES FOR BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND LITERARY CRITICISM

SCOPE:

The purpose of this guide is to assist the student of English and American Literature with directions for basic search procedures and to provide a basic list of sources for literary criticism. The reference collection of the F.D. Bluford Library contains many sources of criticism of novels, plays, poems, and short stories, as well as biographical material relating to the authors of these works. Literary criticism helps you understand what you have read and what other people think of it also. (Please refer to this Internet site for an understanding of what is literary criticism - *Literary Criticism as a Tool for Interpreting Literature* - <http://www.gpc.edu/~shale/humanities/composition/handouts/crit.html>)

USING THE CATALOG:

Establishing what books the library owns on your subject should be your top priority. The Catalog identifies all the books, videos, journals, microforms, and other formats owned by the Library. The Catalog can be searched by [Author](#), [Title](#), [Keywords](#), [Subject Headings](#), [LC Call Number](#), [Professor](#), or [Course Name](#). Use the Keywords search option if you know neither specific books nor standardized subject headings. These subject headings are accessible through five volumes of *Library of Congress Subject Headings* located near the workstations on the first floor of the Library.

Research Strategy Hint: Use the * (asterisk) or the "OR" operator to expand a small set to a larger set. Strategic use of the **Limit** command and the "AND" operator can narrow down an overwhelming list to a manageable size.

BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES:

American Writers: A Collection of Literary Biographies. A&T Ref PS129 .A55
Black Writers: A Selection of Sketches from Contemporary Authors. A&T Ready Ref PN490 .B53 1989
Contemporary Authors: Autobiography Series. A&T Ref PN 453 .C63
Contemporary Theatre, Film & Television: A Continuation of Who's Who in the Theatre. A&T Ref PN2285 C58
Dictionary of Literary Biography Series. A&T Ref PN451 .D54
Dictionary of Literary Biography Yearbook. A&T REF PS221 .D5
Dictionary of Literary Biography Series. A&T Ref PN451 .D54
World Authors, 1900-1950. A&T Ref PN451 W674 1996
World Writers in English. A&T REF PR9080.5 .W67 2004

GENERAL CRITICISM:

African American Literature: Overview and Bibliography. A&T REF PS153 .N5A37 2003
American Literature Library. A&T REF PN44 .C5522 1997
American Prose and Criticism, 1900 - 1950: A Guide to Information Sources. A&T Ref PS 362 .B74
Black Writers of America: A Comprehensive Anthology. A&T Ready Ref PS 508 .N3 B35
British Literary Bibliography and Textual Criticism, 1890-1969. A&T Ref PR 83 .H68
British Writers Series. A&T Ref PR85 B688
The Cambridge History of African and Caribbean Literature. A&T REF PN841 .C36 2004
Classics Library. A&T Ref PN44 .C5544 1997
Columbia Dictionary of Modern Literary and Cultural Criticism. A&T Ref BH39 .C62 1995

Contemporary Literary Criticism Series. A&T Ref PN771 .C59
Cyclopedia of Literary Characters. A&T Ref PN44 M3 1998
English Literature Library. A&T Ready Ref PN44 .C5563 1997
European Literature Library. A&T Ready Ref PN44 .C5566 1997
European Writers. A&T Ref PN501 .E9 1983
A Glossary of Contemporary Literary Theory. A&T REF PN44.5 .H37 2000
The Harlem Renaissance: A Gale Critical Companion. A&T READY REF PS153 .N5H245 2003
Latino and Latina Writers. A&T REF PS153 .H56L39 2004
Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism Series. A&T Ref PN 761 N5
Reader's Guide to Literature in English. A&T Ref PR85 R42 1996
Reference Guide to American Literature. A&T REF PS129 R44 1994
Survey of Contemporary Literature Series. A&T REF PN44 M34
Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism Series. A&T REF PN771 G27
Twentieth-Century Literary Movements Dictionary. A&T REF PN597.T94 2000

CRITICISM OF NOVELS:

The American Novel: A Checklist of Twentieth-Century Criticism. A&T REF Z1231.F4 G4
Contemporary African American Novelists: A Bio-bibliographical Critical Sourcebook. A&T REF PS374 .N4C658 1999
The English Novel, 1578-1956; A Checklist of Twentieth-Century Criticisms. A&T REF Z2014.F4 B4
English Novel Explication: Criticisms to 1972. A&T REF Z2014.F5 P26

CRITICISM OF PLAYS:

African-American Women Playwrights: A Research Guide. A&T REF PS153.N5G29 1999
The Cambridge History of American Theatre. A&T REF PN2221 .C37 1998
Contemporary African American female Playwrights: An Annotated Bibliography. A&T REF PS 338.N4W55 1998
Critical Survey of Drama. A&T REF PR623 .C75 1994
Drama Criticism. A&T REF Z5781 .C65
The Impact of Race: Theatre and Culture. A&T REF PN2270 .A35K54 2003
Jacobean and Caroline Dramatists. A&T REF PN451 .D54 v. 58
Major Modern Dramatists. A&T Ref PN1861 .M27 1984
Twentieth-Century American Dramatists. A&T Ref PN451 .D54

CRITICISM OF POETRY:

African-American Poets: Phillis Wheatley through Melvin B. Tolson. A&T REF PS310.N4A69 2003
African-American Poets: Robert Hayden through Rita Dove. A&T REF PS310.N4A35 2003
American Poets Since World War II. A&T REF PN451 .D54 v. 165, v. 169, v. 193
American Women Poets, 1650-1950. A&T REF PS147.A49 2002
Black Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance. A&T REF PS310.N4E37 2003
English Romantic Poetry, 1800-1835: A Guide to Information Sources. A&T REF PR590 .R46
Forms of Discovery: Critical & Historical Essays on the Forms of the Short Poem in English. A&T REF PR502.W5.8
Poets of Great Britain and Ireland Since 1960. A&T REF PN451 .D54
Poetry Criticism: Excerpts from Criticism of the Works of the most Significant and Widely Studied Poets of World Literature. A&T REF PN1010 .P499

CRITICISM OF SHORT STORIES:

The Afro-American Short Story: A Comprehensive, Annotated Index with Selected Commentaries.
A&T REF PS153.N5 Y36 1986
American Short-Story Writers, 1880-1910. A&T REF PN451 .D54 v. 78
American Short-Story Writers Before 1880. A&T REF PN451 .D54 v.74
Masterplots II: Short Story Series. A&T REF PN3326 .M27
Twentieth-Century Short Story Explication: Interpretations, 1900-1975, of Short Fiction Since 1800.
A&T REF PN3373 .W3 1977

ABSTRACTS, INDEXES, AND WEB DATABASES:

Abstracts and indexes in printed and electronic formats are used as keys to articles inside magazines and journals. These products may give you access back to the 1800s. Electronic or web databases offer more efficient and precise searching techniques. These electronic sources may also provide the full-text of the article online. You should cross-check the Catalog to see if a journal is available in print on the Lower Level of F.D. Bluford Library if the full-text of the article is not available online. You should also cross-check the Electronic Journals list to see if the journal is available full-text through another web database.

Abstracts & Indexes (Printed):

Art Index. A&T REF INDEXES Z5937 .A78

Biography and Genealogy Master Index. A&T REF INDEXES CT 214 B4995 1980 -

Biography Index. A&T REF INDEXES Z5301 B5

Humanities Index. A&T REF INDEXES AI3 H83

MLA International Bibliography. A&T REF INDEXES Z7006 .M64

Twentieth-Century Short Story Explication. A&T REF PN 3373 W3

Web Databases:

[20th Century African-American Poetry](#)

This database is a collection of poetry written by the most important and influential African American poets of the 20th century. A growing resource, it includes over 10,000 poems from over 100 complete editions by 70 poets.

[20th Century American Poetry](#)

This is a database of modern and contemporary American poetry from the early twentieth century to the present. Presently includes 52,000 poems drawn from 750 volumes by over 300 poets.

[20th Century English Poetry](#)

Containing tens of thousands of works in over 600 collections by 288 poets, Twentieth-Century English Poetry provides an overview of poetry written in the 20th century by both established and emerging writers.

[Academic Search Premier](#)

Provides abstracts and indexing for over 8,200 scholarly journals covering a wide variety of subject areas from 1984 to present. Includes many complete articles from over 4,650 journals.

[African American Biographical Database](#)

The African American Biographical Database brings together in one resource over 40,000 biographies of African Americans, 1790-1950, many not to be found in any other reference source.

[African American Poetry \(1750-1900\)](#)

This database includes nearly 3,000 poems written by African-American poets in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Indexed from 1750 to 1900

[African American Song](#)

This database includes nearly 12,000 tracks of the greatest historical recordings from the first half of the 20th century. This diverse collection contains jazz, blues, gospel, ragtime, folk songs, and others.

[African Writers Series](#)

The African Writers Series database is unique in the publishing of key works in African postcolonial literature. It contains over 120 volumes of fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fictional prose.

[American Periodicals Series Online, 1740-1900](#) via ProQuest

Over 1,100 periodicals that first began publishing between 1740 and 1900, including special interest and general magazines, literary and professional journals, children's and women's magazines, and many other historically-significant periodicals. Coverage is from 1740 to 1940.

[American Poetry \(1600-1900\)](#)

Over 40,000 poems by more than 200 American poets from the Colonial Period to the early twentieth century

[Arts and Humanities Citation Index](#) via Web of Science

This bibliographic index allows cited reference searching in 1,100 journals across 25 disciplines of the arts and humanities fields.

[Black Drama](#)

Contains plays, related productions, theaters, production companies, and more.

[Black Short Fiction](#)

Comprehensive collection of African and African-Diaspora stories, literature, and short stories.

[Black Thought and Culture](#)

Contains works of non-fiction written by leading African Americans.

[Biography Resource Center](#)

Includes biographies of authors and writers, in addition to hundreds of other occupations. You may limit your search by country or ethnicity.

[Current Biography Illustrated](#)

Includes biographies of authors and writers, in addition to hundreds of other occupations. You may limit your search by country or ethnicity.

[English Poetry \(600-1900\)](#)

This is essentially the complete English poetic canon from 600 to 1900, in which over 165,000 poems by more than 1,250 poets are drawn from nearly 4,500 printed sources. Indexed from 600 to 1900.

[Gale Virtual Reference Center](#) via InfoTrac

Includes access to the reference works *Major 21st Century Writers* and *Modern American Literature*.

[Humanities Full-Text](#) via Wilson Web

This database is the electronic equivalent of the internationally known Humanities Index. Periodical coverage includes scholarly journals and lesser-known but important specialized magazines. Full-text coverage begins in 1995. Subjects covered include area studies, art, communications, dance, film, gender studies, history, journalism, literary & social criticism, music, performing arts, and philosophy.

[Humanities International Complete](#) via EBSCOhost

This database is the electronic equivalent of the internationally known *American Humanities Index* and *Humanities International Index*. Periodical coverage includes scholarly journals and lesser-known but important specialized magazines. Humanities International Complete provides researchers with essential citations, articles, and content on all aspects of the humanities, including literary and creative thought.

[InfoTrac OneFile](#) via Info Trac

Coverage is available through 10,000 indexed and 6,000 full-text titles in a wide variety of areas including: social science journals, humanities journals, literature and art journals, national news periodicals, general interest magazines, newswires, The New York Times and many others.

[International Index to Black Periodicals](#)

IBP Full Text draws its current content from more than 150 international scholarly and popular periodicals in Black Studies and contains full-text coverage of over 40 core Black Studies periodicals.

[JSTOR](#)

The JSTOR database is unique because the complete archives of over 320 core scholarly journals have been digitized, starting with the very first issues, many of which date from the 1800s. Current issues are not included, but historical journals in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences are available in full text.

[LexisNexis Primary Sources in U.S. History](#)

Includes biographies and autobiographies of famous African Americans. Also includes literary criticisms of historically significant works by African Americans.

[Literature in Context](#)

The curriculum-based Literature in Context series is a rich collection of primary source material, collateral readings, and commentary that helps students understand the historical, social, and cultural milieu associated with major literary works.

[Literature Resource Center](#)

Literature Resource Center provides access to over 270 reference works and journals containing biographies, bibliographies, and critical analyses of authors. The Literature Resource Center covers more than 120,000 novelists, poets, essayists, journalists, and others, with in-depth coverage of 2,500 of the most-studied authors.

[LitFinder](#)

Search or browse an online database with more than 135,000 full-text poems, stories, essays, plays and speeches. “*LitFinder* provides context to and understanding of important writings through the ages. From full-text primary works to author information, students and researchers have quick, direct access to the information ... they seek.”

[MagillOnLiterature Plus](#) via EBSCOhost

Compiled by Salem Press, this database combines MagillOnAuthors and MagillOnLiterature into the definitive source for articles, images, and reviewed critical analyses of notable authors. MagillOnLiterature Plus contains all of Masterplots/Masterplots II, Cyclopedia of World Authors, Cyclopedia of Literary Characters, Magill's Literary Annual, Magill's Guide to Science Fiction and Fantasy as well as World Philosophers and Their Works.

[Marquis Who's Who on the Web](#)

Comprehensive profiles on over 1 million of the most accomplished individuals from all fields of endeavor.

[MLA International Bibliography](#) via OCLC FirstSearch

Provides over one million citations from journals and series published worldwide on literature, folklore, language, and linguistics. Indexes books, essay collections, working papers, proceedings, dissertations, and bibliographies.

[Project Muse: Scholarly Journals Online](#)

Project MUSE provides full text access to over 220 scholarly journals in the fields of literature and criticism, history, the visual and performing arts, cultural studies, education, gender studies, economics, and many others.

[Twayne Author Series - Twayne World, English and US Authors](#) via GaleNet/Gale Group

Twayne World, US, and English Authors each contains the full text of 200 frequently used Twayne Literary Masters books on individual World, US, or English authors, for a total of 600 individual full-text titles.

[WorldCat](#)

A union catalog of materials held in libraries world-wide, WorldCat lets you determine which libraries may own

an item of interest. WorldCat does not indicate the availability of an item, only whether it is owned. Check the library's online catalog for availability.

INTERNET:

Text-In-Community 2003-2004

Links to a W.E.B. Du Bois Bibliography created by librarians at NCA&TSU and other related links.

<http://www.library.ncat.edu/ref/homepagedubois.htm>

Text-In-Community 2004-2005

Links to a Ralph Ellison Bibliography created by librarians at NCA&TSU and other related links.

<http://www.library.ncat.edu/info/textincomm2004/textincomm.html>

American Authors on the Web

Two lists of web sites, general resources and a chronological listing of authors arranged by date of birth. Sites may contain criticism, biography, or texts. Hundreds of authors are included.

<http://www.lang.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/AmeLit.html>

Gale's Literary Index

A master index to literature products published by Gale, more than 141,000 author names and listings for over 184,000 titles are combined and cross-referenced into one source.

<http://www.galenet.com/servlet/LitIndex>

Glossary of Literary Terms

Allows access to a free master index to literary terms.

http://www.galegroup.com/free_resources/glossary/index.htm

Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism

A good starting point for further research, this site is one of the standards in the field and offers cross-referenced articles for theorists, national and ethnic critical traditions, periods, "schools," and literary forms.

http://www.press.jhu.edu/books/hopkins_guide_to_literary_theory/b-contents.html

Internet Public Library Online Literary Criticism Collection

Over 1500 critical and biographical websites about authors and their works, by author, by title, or by literary period.

<http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/>

Introduction to Literary Criticism.

Allows access to a selected list of the major figures in Literary Criticism/Critical Theory.

<http://mike.etterry.net/critcont.htm>

Literary Criticism: An Overview of Approaches

"Literary criticism has at least three purposes"

<http://www.literatureclassics.com/ancientpaths/litcrit.html>

Literary History.com

"Literaryhistory.com chosen as one of 25 "Best Of Reference 2003" by The New York Public Library"

<http://www.literaryhistory.com/>

Literary Resources on the Net

"This set of pages is a collection of links to sites on the Internet dealing especially with English and American literature ... and is limited to collections of information useful to academics."

<http://newark.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/>

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