

## **Guide to Literary Research: A Selective List of Reference Works**

This guide is intended to introduce the student to major literary sources found in the ARC library and to serve as an introduction to literary research. This is not intended as a comprehensive bibliography of the library's literary resources.

### **LITERARY TERMS**

- A Dictionary of Literary and Thematic Terms** Ref PN 44.5 .Q56 2006
- A Handbook to Literature** Ref PN 41 .H355 2006
- Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory** Ref PN 81 .J554 2005
- Longman Dictionary of Literary Terms** Ref PN 44.5 .K46 2006
- New Handbook of Literary Terms** Ref PN 41 .M48 2007
- New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry & Poetics** Ref PN 1021 .N39 1993
- Twentieth-Century Literary Movements Dictionary** Ref PN 597 .T94 2000

### **ENCYCLOPEDIAS & HANDBOOKS**

- Chronology of American Literature** Ref PS 94 .C48 2004 & eBook
- Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature** Ref PL 493 .C55 2003
- Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature** Ref PS 153 .I52 E53 2007
- Encyclopedia of American Poetry: the Twentieth Century** Ref PS 323.5 .E53 2001
- Encyclopedia of Asian American Literature** Ref PS 153 .A84 O37 2007
- Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature** Ref PN 471 .W455 2004 & eBook
- Encyclopedia of Gothic Literature** Ref PN 3435 .S58 2005
- Encyclopedia of the Harlem Literary Renaissance** Ref PS 153 .N5 B675 2006
- Encyclopedia of Literary Modernism** Ref PN 56 .M54 E53 2003
- Encyclopedia of Medieval Literature** Ref PN 669 .R88 2006

**Encyclopedia of Post-Colonial Literature in English** Ref PR 9080 .A52 E53 2005  
**Encyclopedia of Renaissance Literature** Ref PN 721 .C66 2006  
**Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century** Ref PN 771 .E5 1999  
**Facts on File Companion to Classical Drama** Ref PA 3024 .T48 2005  
**Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Literature** Ref PS 153 .N5 G73 2005  
**HarperCollins Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature** Ref PS 21 .B46 2002  
**Hispanic Literature of the United States** Ref PS 153 .H56 K36 2003  
**Multicultural Writers Since 1945** Ref PN 452 .M88 2004  
**Oxford Companion to African American Literature** Ref PS 153 .N5 O96 1997  
**Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature** Ref PS 21 .E537 2004  
**Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature** Ref PR 19 .O95 2006  
**Oxford Encyclopedia of Children's Literature** Ref PN 1008.5 .O94 2006  
**Oxford Companion to English Literature** Ref PR 19 .O94 2006  
**South Asian Literature in English** Ref PR 9570 .S642 S67 2004

## CRITICISM

### Gale Literary Criticism Series

**Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism** Ref Stairwell PN 681.5 .C57  
**Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800** Ref Stairwell PN 86 .L56  
**Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism** Ref PN 761 .N56  
**Twentieth Century Literary Criticism** Ref PN 771 .G27  
**Contemporary Literary Criticism** Ref PN 771 .C59  
**Short Story Criticism** Ref PN 3373 .S56  
**Poetry Criticism** Ref PN 1010 .P499  
**Drama Criticism** Ref 1601 .D59  
**Shakespearean Criticism** Ref Stairwell PR 2965 .S43

These multi-volume sets reprint criticism from books, journals, and magazines.

### "All Things" Series

**All Things Austen** Ref PR 4036 .A275 2005  
**All Things Chaucer** Ref PR 1903 .R55 2007  
**All Things Shakespeare** Ref PR 2892 .O56 2002

### Gale Critical Companions

**The Beat Generation** Ref PS 228 .B6 Z68 2003  
**Feminism in Literature** Ref PN 471 .F43 2005  
**Gothic Literature** Ref PR 408 .G68 G675 2006  
**The Harlem Renaissance** Ref PS 153 .N5 H245 2003

"For Students" Series

**Epics for Students** Ref PN 56 .E65 E67 1997

**Literary Movements for Students** Ref PN 597 .L58 2002

**Literature of Developing Nations for Students** Ref PN 3326 .L58 2000

**Shakespeare's Characters for Students** Ref PR 2989 .S53 1997

Shakespeare for Students Ref PR 2987 .S47 2007

This series tries to make literary works more accessible to students. Each entry discusses theme, style and historical context, and provides a list of sources for further reading.

Literature and Its Times

**Literature and Its Times: Profiles of 300 Notable Literary Works and the Historical Events That Influenced Them** Ref PN 50 .L575 1997

**World Literature and Its Times: Profiles of Notable Literary Works and the Historical Events that Influenced Them** Ref PN 50 .M67

These two sets profile important works of literature and discuss the historical events that influenced them. Each essay provides an overview of the work, a discussion of historical events, and a bibliography for further study.

Magill's Critical Surveys

**Critical Survey of Drama** Ref PN 1625 .C68 2003

**Critical Survey of Poetry** Ref PN 1021 .C7 2003

**Critical Survey of Short Fiction** Ref PN 3321 .C7 2001

These surveys discuss authors from all nationalities and time periods. Each entry includes a short biography, list of achievements, career overview, analysis of the author's best known works and a bibliography of sources for further study. Each series also includes topical essays.

Twayne Companions

**Twayne Companion to Contemporary Literature in English** Ref PS 225 .T88 2003

This companion reprints articles from the journal *The Hollins Critic*. Author coverage is primarily American, but also covers Canadian, English and Irish writers.

**Twayne Companion to Contemporary World Literature** Ref PN 771 .T93 2003 This companion reprints articles from the journal *World Literature Today*. Author coverage includes those from all nationalities.

Writers Classics Series

**American Writers Classics** Ref PS 129 .A56

**British Writers Classics** Ref PR 99 .B74 2003

This series presents substantial essays on landmark works of literature. Each essay provides a critical analysis of the cultural, biographical and historical dimensions of the work.

<b>BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES</b>
-----------------------------

**Contemporary Authors** Ref Stairwell PN 771 .C564

The Scribner Writers Series

**African American Writers** Ref PS 153 .N5 A344 2001

**American Writers: A Collection of Literary Biographies** Ref PS 129 .A55

**British Writers** Ref PR 85 .B688

**European Writers** Ref PN 501 .E9

**Latin American Writers** Ref PQ 7081 .A1 L37 1989

**Latino and Latina Writers** Ref PS 153 .H56 L39 2004

**Modern American Women Writers** Ref PS 151 .M54 1990  
**Science Fiction Writers** Ref PS 374 .S35 S36 1999  
**Supernatural Fiction Writers** Ref PN 3435 .S96  
**World Writers in English** Ref PR 9080.5 .W67 2004

**Research Databases** @ <http://arc.losrios.edu/~library/>

The following research databases contain literary criticism. These are accessible to currently enrolled students from the Library's **Research Databases** page.

**Literary Reference Center** - this database provides access to journal articles as well as criticism from reference books and biographical sources. This is a good place to start.

**Academic Search Premier** - this database contains articles from magazines and scholarly journals, many of which cover literary topics.

**Library Catalog** @ <http://arc.losrios.edu/~library/>

Criticism is also published in book form. The library catalog will help you locate these books.

**Subject Searching** Each book in the catalog is assigned a Subject Heading based on its subject matter. When a book contains analysis of an author's works, the Subject Heading for that book will be the author's name, last name first. For example: Kerouac, Jack. This search will retrieve both biographical studies and literary criticism.

Major works of literature will have their own Subject Heading. For example, criticism about *The Catcher in the Rye* will be listed under the Subject Heading, "The Catcher in the Rye." However, lesser-known works, in particular many short stories and poems, will not have their own Subject Heading. In this case, specialized reference books and indexes, such as those listed on this guide, must be used.

**Keyword Searching** It is also possible to use a Keyword search to find criticism. Use either the author's name, title of the literary work, or topic as your keywords.

A sample search using the author's name would be "Jack Kerouac."

A sample search using the title would be "On The Road."

A sample search using a topic would be "Beat Generation."

Keep in mind that a Keyword search is less accurate than a Subject search. For instance, using the author's name in a Keyword search will retrieve books by the author in addition to books about the author. Similarly, using the title in a keyword search will retrieve the work itself in addition to books about the work. Nevertheless, Keyword searching can pick up items that were overlooked by the Subject search. The best strategy is to try both search options and analyze the results.

TS 11/17/08