



Literary criticism is the analysis of a literary work (novel, poem, short story). Literary criticism may discuss characterization, symbolism, plot, style, or a particular theme. The following sources will help you to find critical materials on an author, playwright, or poet's work in the form of books, periodical articles, and essays.

Books

Books about an author, either biographical information or literary criticism, can be identified by searching on iLink (the computerized catalog of LVC's books) by subject. Some examples of useful Subject Headings for Literary Criticism:

GENERAL WORKS

Conrad, Joseph--1857-1924

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Conrad, Joseph--Characters

LITERARY CRITICISM

Conrad, Joseph--Criticism

CRITICISM ON A SPECIFIC WORK

Conrad, Joseph--Heart of Darkness--Criticism and Interpretation

Remember--searching for books about an author can only be done as a SUBJECT search. If you search by AUTHOR only, you will be given books BY your author.

Reference Books

Literary criticism and biographical information found in reference books may be found by searching iLink: Use the "Power Search" button to limit your search (choose LOCATION—Reference Collection) to reference books only. A good search to find reference books (IF the search is limited only to reference) would be *literature*, or *literary criticism* or *critical* or *criticism*. Reference books may also be found by scanning the PN-PS section of reference.

GUIDE

Baker, Nancy L. And Nancy Huling. A research guide for undergraduate Students: English and American Literature. New York: MLA, 2000.

REF PR 56 .B34 2000

African American Writers. New York: Scribners, 1991.

REF PS 153 .N5 A344 1990

American Novelists Since WW II. Detroit, MI: Gale Research, 1978

REF PS 379 .A554

American Women Writers. New York: Ungar, 1979
REF PS 147 .A42

American Writers: A Collection of Literary Biographies. New York: S & S, 1996
REF PS 129 .A55 v. 1-12

Contemporary Authors. Detroit, MI: Gale Research, 1992
REF Z 1224 .C6

Begin in the paperback dark blue index. Look up the author's name. You'll be given a reference to a number, which will look something like this:

67 refers you to a volume 67 of the *orange set*
CANR-1 refers you to the volume 1 of the new revision(green) set
41-44R refers you to volume 41-44 of the light brown original set.

Critical Survey of Long Fiction. Pasadena: Salem Press, 1991.
REF PR 821 .C7 1991

Critical Survey of Short Fiction. Pasadena: Salem Press, 1993
REF PN 3321 .C7 1993

The Critical Temper: A Survey of Modern Criticism on English and American Literature from the Beginning to the 20th Century. New York: Ungar, 1969.
REF PR 83 .C764 v.1-3

Dictionary of Literary Biography. (Series) Detroit, MI: Gale, 1980.
REF PS 128-490

Encyclopedia of World Literature in the Twentieth Century. New York: Ungar, 1999.
REF PN 771 .E5 1999 v.1-4

The Library of Literary Criticism. New York: Peter Smith, 1935.
REF PR 83 .M73 1935 v.1-3

A Library of Literary Criticism: Modern American Literature. New York: Ungar, 1966.
REF PS 221 .C8 1964

Magill, Frank. (ed). Critical Survey of Drama: English Language Series. Englewood Cliffs. NJ: Salem Press, 1985.
REF PR 623 .C75 1985 v. 1-6

Moulton's Library of Literary Criticism of English and American Authors. New York: Ungar, 1966.
REF PR 83 .M73 1966 v. 1-4.

Research Guide to Biography and Criticism. Washington, DC: Research Publishing, 1985.

REF PR 85 .R47 v. 1-2

Short Story Criticism. Detroit: Gale, 1992.
REF PN 3373 .S386

Spiller, Robert E. (ed). Literary History of the United States. New York: MacMillan, 1974.
REF PS 88 .L522 1974 v. 1-2

20th Century Authors: A Biographical Dictionary. New York: Wilson, 1942, 1955.
REF PN 771 .K86

World Authors 1975-1980. New York: Wilson, 1985.
REF PN 451 .W672

World Authors 1980-1985. New York: Wilson, 1985.
REF PN 451 .W6

World Authors 1985-1990. New York: Wilson, 1995.
REF PN 451 .W673 1995

Periodical Indexes

The best index for periodical articles on literary criticism is the MLA International Bibliography. MLA is available on FirstSearch, and also in paper.

Academic Premier (EbscoHost).
Electronic: 1990- <http://www.lvc.edu/library/databases.aspx>

May be useful for finding some information--but should NOT be the only index that you use.

Biography Index. Paper: 1946-, INDEX CT 85 .B56
Electronic: 1984-, <http://www.lvc.edu/library/databases.aspx>

The best source for finding *biographical* information.

Humanities Index. Paper: 1974-, INDEX A1 3 .H85
Electronic: 1984-, <http://www.lvc.edu/library/databases.aspx>

Coverage includes English and American literature. Alphabetically arranged by subject. Criticism on an author is listed under the subheading "about" under the author's name. Useful for thematic criticism, e.g. "Blindness in Literature", and "Supernatural in Literature".

Essay and General Literature Index.
Paper: 1900-, INDEX A1 3 .E752
Electronic: 1985-, <http://www.lvc.edu/library/databases.aspx>

Covers General Literature, and also provides information on Essays. Author and Subject index to collections of essays which are biographical and analytical in nature, and are found in books. Contains criticisms of individual titles.

MLA International Bibliography.

Paper: 1960-

INDEX PN 80 .M53

Electronic:1963-

<http://www.lvc.edu/library/databases.aspx>

This is one of the most extensive indexes covering modern languages, literature, folklore, and linguistics. The paper source is a bit more difficult to use than the electronic version. One needs to know the nationality of the author, and the time period that the author published within to access information. MLA provides access to scholarly periodical articles, books, essays in collections, and dissertations.

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