

# Research Database Tips

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## Sources of Literary Criticism

Students must be able to find and use literary criticism in order to succeed in ENG 151: Fundamentals of English II or any 200 level English classes they may choose to take at Wor-Wic. Although some literary criticism may be found using more general academic journal databases (i.e. *Academic OneFile*, *Academic Search Premier*, *Proquest Central*), Wor-Wic subscribes to several databases that are specifically designed to provide biographical and critical information about authors and their works.

### Literature Resource Center

*Literature Resource Center* provides access to literary criticism, author biographies, work and topic overviews, reviews, and the full text of many literary works. Much of the information comes from books published by Gale, Twayne, Scribner, St. James Press and other publishers under the Cengage Learning umbrella. Some examples are:

<i>Scribner's Writer's Series</i>	<i>Twayne's American and British Authors Series</i>
<i>Contemporary Authors</i>	<i>Dictionary of Literary Biography Series</i>
All of Gale's <i>Literary Criticism Series</i>	All of Gale's <i>For Students Series</i>
All of Gale's <i>Characters in Series</i>	<i>St. James Writers' Series</i>
<i>St. James Reference Guide Series</i>	<i>Merriam Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature</i>
Custom plot summaries created for LRC	

*Literature Resource Center* also provides full text indexing for magazines and journals containing books reviews, interviews, and literary criticism. It provides full-text indexing to journal articles listed in the *MLA International Bibliography*. Links to selectively screened websites are also provided..

Students can choose to search by or about a writer or search for information on a single work. The search results can be limited by date of publication and type of content. Results appear under the following tabs: Literature Criticism, Biography, Multimedia, Reviews and News, Primary Sources and Literary Works, Topic and Work Overviews. Searches may also be limited to peer-reviewed publications.

### Literary Reference Center

*Literary Reference Center* is a full-text database that includes information from major reference works, books, literary journals, and some original content from EBSCO Publishing. *Literary Reference Center* includes plot summaries, synopses, and work overviews; articles of literary criticism; author biographies; full text of over 430 literary journals; book reviews; classic and contemporary poems and short stories; full text of over 7,000 classic novels; author interviews; and images of key literary figures. Reference sources include:

<i>Beacham's Research Guide to Biography and Criticism</i>	<i>The Columbia Companion to the 20th Century American Short Story</i>
<i>Continuum Encyclopedia of American Literature</i>	<i>Continuum Encyclopedia of British Literature</i>
<i>Continuum Encyclopedia of Children's Literature</i>	<i>The Literary Encyclopedia</i>
The complete <i>MagillOnLiterature Plus</i>	<i>Merriam Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature</i>
<i>The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics</i>	<i>The Oxford Illustrated History of English Literature</i>

Book series include:

<i>Bloom's Modern Critical Views</i>	<i>Bloom's Critical Insights</i>
<i>Bloom's Modern Critical Interpretations</i>	<i>Bloom's BioCritiques</i>
<i>Bloom's Major Poets</i>	<i>Bloom's Period Studies</i>
<i>Bloom's Major Dramatists</i>	<i>Bloom's Literary Themes</i>
<i>Understanding Literature</i>	Many more individual titles

Students are given the option to browse by author or by work. Search results are organized under the following tabs: all results, Biographies, Literary Criticism, Plot summaries, Reviews, Interviews, Reference Books, Periodicals, Poems, Short Stories, and Full-Text Classics.

### **Literature Online (LION)**

*Literature Online* provides a fully searchable library of over 350,000 works of English or American poetry, drama, and prose. It features biographies of literary figures written specifically for *Literature Online* and provides bibliographies of works for many authors.

*LION* gives access to literary criticism by providing full-text indexing for the *Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature (ABELL)* and 326 literary journals. Since *Wor-Wic* is also a subscriber to *JSTOR*, links are automatically provided to those articles cited in *ABELL* that are available in *JSTOR*. *LION* also indexes *The MLA International Bibliography in Literature Resource Center* and provides subject indexed records to articles in journals included in *JSTOR*'s Language and Literature Collection. In addition, there are over 5,000 hyperlinks to useful information on the Internet.

*LION* contains video clips of poets reading their own work and works of other poets. It also provides access to complete audio recordings of all 38 Shakespeare plays.

Users may do a general search or search by author, text, or criticism and reference only. They may also browse the complete contents, full-text journals, an author index, or multi-media files.

### **JSTOR**

Most periodical databases contain back issues of magazines and journals going back to the early 1990's when publishers began making their publications available in electronic format. *JSTOR*, however, provides full-text indexing to 1000 academic journals across the humanities, social sciences, and sciences from volume one, issue 1, including all title changes across time. By individual agreement with its content providers, *JSTOR* stops indexing from three to ten years back from the current issue of the journal depending on the title. It has recently reached agreement with nineteen publishers of 174 journals to provide full-text indexing through the latest issue under its Current Scholarship Program. It also provides access to selected monographs and primary source material including pamphlets, letters, pictures, etc.

*JSTOR* provides full-text indexing to 226 titles in its Language and Literature Collection. It is very useful for finding criticism published during an author's lifetime and tracking changes in literary opinion over time.

### **Other Possible Sources**

#### **Credo Reference**

*Credo Reference* indexes the full-text of 31 book titles under Literature. Some examples are *The Encyclopedia of American Poetry*, *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Latino Literature*, *All Things Chaucer*, etc.

#### **Gale Student Resources in Context**

*Gale Student Resources in Context* has a good literature component. It covers commonly studied authors and their works. Search results are sorted by biography, critical essays, plot summaries, news, magazines, academic journals, and websites. Much of the content available here is also available in *Literature Resource Center*.

#### **Gale Biography in Context**

*Gale Biography in Context* is a good place to find background information on an author.

#### **Encyclopedia Britannica Online**

*The Encyclopedia Britannica Online* has information on many authors and their works. Tabs to the right of the available articles provide additional access to available magazine and journal articles, e-books and primary sources, and web links.

#### **Oxford English Dictionary Online**

The OED traces the development of forms and meaning of a word. It is good for interpreting symbolism.