Library Quick Guide: Researching an Author or Literary Work

Research Databases: Literary Reference Center Plus
- From the Library home page (https://library.cscc.edu), select Find Books & More, then Databases.
- Click on English & Literature under All Subjects on the top of the page, then Literary Reference Center Plus.

1. Enter keywords in the Find boxes. Combine keywords and phrases with AND.

2. Leave settings on “Select a Field” for your first search. The database will search for your keywords automatically. For a more specific search, use the drop-down menu to select where the database searches for your keywords (i.e. in “AU Author,” “TI Title,” etc).

3. Limit your results by Source Types. For example, limit your results to Literary Criticism for scholarship on a work.

4. Click on the title of the article for citation information and abstract. Click on the Full Text link to view and print the full text of the article.

Continued
Reference Sources

The following reference books are available in the Library (Columbus) and also online. These sources provide excellent factual information about authors. Many of these sources contain biographical essays, critical reviews, and bibliographic citations to other sources by or about authors.

- *Black Literature Criticism* (REF 809.8896 B627)
- *Contemporary Authors* (REF 810.90052 C761)
- *Reference Guide to Short Fiction* (REF 809.31 R332)
- *Short Stories for Students* (REF 809.31 S5592)

Literary Research Guide

The Literary Research Guide highlights useful resources, such as books, journals, databases, and websites, to start your literary research. Access at [https://library.cscc.edu/literature](https://library.cscc.edu/literature).

Library Catalog:

Search the Library Catalog for books, electronic and audiovisual sources.

Research Database: Humanities International Complete

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2. Click on **English & Literature** under **All Subjects** on the top of the page, then **Humanities International Complete**.
3. Choose **Advanced Search**.

To find literary criticism of an author’s work, enter the title of work **OR** the author’s name and the word, **criticism**, in the search boxes.

Select the type of search:

- **Keyword**: narrow your search by combining search terms. Type an author’s name **AND** criticism to retrieve criticism about an author’s works (i.e. Mark Twain **AND** criticism).
- **Title**: search by title if you know the **exact** title of your author’s work.
- **Author**: access the works written **by** a specific author (author’s last name, first name).
- **Subject**: find materials **about** your author such as biographies or criticism (author’s last name, first name).

Questions? Ask a Librarian!

Columbus Campus: Library, Columbus Hall  Reference Desk: 614.287.2460
Delaware Campus: The Learning Center, Moeller Hall  Service Desk: 740.203.8183

[https://library.cscc.edu](https://library.cscc.edu)