

When searching for criticism of literary works, here are some things to keep in mind:

- ◆ Use a variety of sources. "Literary criticism" may involve the historical context of the work, the author's life, the work's content or "message," or the author's style or technique (use of characters, themes, language, etc.). Critical material about a single work may differ greatly according to its focus. You should use several sources and not depend on a single article/book.
- ◆ Begin with a search of the library catalog. Often you will find entire books devoted to analyzing the works of major (and sometimes minor) writers. In "Advanced Search" do a subject search using the name of your author and title of the work (e.g., shakespeare hamlet).

This guide discusses only some of the resources that are available in the Libraries. Most of these resources can be found in the Bartle Reference Collection. Some can be accessed via the web. Additional resources can be found in the reference collection and in the third floor stacks.

## I. ONLINE RESOURCES

These licensed databases are **available to Binghamton University students and faculty only**. Use the following address <http://libraryguides.binghamton.edu/english> and look under "Databases & Journal Indexes."

### *MLA Bibliography*

A classified listing and subject index for books and articles published on modern languages, literatures, folklore, and linguistics. International in scope; citations only.

### *Literature Online* (includes ABELL, Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature)

In addition to full-text works of poetry, prose, and drama, it contains full-text critical articles and reference entries and citations to other books and articles.

### *Literature Resource Center*

Contains a representative selection from the print version of *Contemporary Literary Criticism* (described on the next page) in addition to a number of electronic journals.

### *Academic Search Complete*

Interdisciplinary database containing selected full-text critical articles and citations to criticism on major and minor authors. Coverage varies by title.

### *JSTOR*

Includes a number of full-text literary journals from their inception to 3-5 years ago.

### *Project Muse*

Includes several full-text literary journals. Coverage varies by title.

## II. RESOURCES ACROSS GENRES

- Literary Criticism Index* Ref PN523.W45 1994  
Index to criticism on individual works arranged alphabetically first by author then by title.
- Magill's Bibliography of Literary Criticism* Ref PN523.M25 1979  
This 4-volume set lists resources for the study of more than 2,500 works of western literature, spanning the centuries from the Epic of Gilgamesh to the late 1970s.
- The Chelsea House Library of Literary Criticism:*
- The Critical Perspective* Ref PR85.C76 1985  
Contains 20<sup>th</sup> Century criticism of British and American literature to 1904.
- Twentieth-Century American Literature* Ref PS221.T834 1985  
Contains critical essays on modern authors from the United States and Canada.
- Twentieth-Century British Literature* Ref PR473.T84 1985  
Contains critical essays on modern authors from the UK and its former colonies.

The following resources provide excerpts from critical articles with full citations. The last volume in each multi-volume set contains a cumulative author index that is cross-referenced to the other four sets as well. The index to *Contemporary Authors* may also be used as a master index to all these sets. (The abbreviation for each set is given in parentheses after the title.)

- Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism (CMLC)* Ref PN610.C52  
Focus is literature from antiquity through 1399. Sources of the criticism include modern critics as well as writers from the classical and medieval eras.
- Contemporary Literary Criticism (CLC)* Ref PN771.C59  
Published criticism on the works of novelists, poets, playwrights, short story writers, and other creative writers now living or who died after December 31, 1959.
- Title Index Ref PN771.C592
- Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800 (LC)* Ref PN86.L56  
Focus is literature of the 15th through 18th centuries; includes some non-literary writers, especially philosophers. Includes critics from all time periods.
- Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism (NCLC)* Ref PN761.N5  
Covers writers working from 1800-1899.
- Title Index Ref PN761.N5 Ind.
- Twentieth Century Literary Criticism (TCLC)* Ref PN771.G27  
Focus is modern authors who died before 1959.
- Title Index Ref PN771.G272

### III. GENRE-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

#### A. Novel

- The Contemporary Novel: A Checklist of Critical Literature on the English Novel since 1945* Ref PS379.A34 1997
- Critical Survey of Long Fiction* (Second Revised Edition) Ref PN3451.C75 2000  
Essays arranged alphabetically by name of author discussed; includes limited references to additional resources. Last volume contains essays related to the novel as a genre. (Includes most authors from older *English Language* and *Foreign Language* series.)
- English Novel Explication* Ref PR821.E55 suppl. 7  
Bibliography of recent criticism in books and periodicals dealing with individual novels.
- Survey of Modern Fantasy Literature* Ref PN56.F34.S97 1983  
Discussions arranged alphabetically by title of work. Limited references to additional resources.
- Survey of Science Fiction Literature* Ref PN3448.S45.S88  
Equivalent of the preceding title for science fiction literature; same alphabetical arrangement.

#### B. Short Story

- Critical Survey of Short Fiction* Ref PN3321.C7 2001  
Essays arranged by author being discussed, with references to additional critical material. Last volume contains general essays related to the genre.
- Short Story Criticism* Ref PN3373.S387  
Excerpts from critical articles about major authors and stories. Last volume contains cumulative author index to this series.
- Twentieth Century Short Story Explication: Interpretations, 1900-1975, of Short Fiction since 1800* Ref PN3451.W25 1977  
Supplements covering 1976-1998 also available.

#### C. Poetry

- Critical Survey of Poetry* Ref PN1021.C7 2003  
Essays arranged alphabetically by author being discussed, with references to additional sources. Last volume contains essays on topics related to poetry in general.
- Guide to American Poetry Explication:*
- Colonial and Nineteenth-Century* Ref PS303.G85 1989 (v.1)  
Index to interpretations of pre-19<sup>th</sup> Century American poetry published between 1925-1987.
- Modern and Contemporary* Ref PS303.G85 1989 (v.2)  
Index to interpretations of modern American poetry published between 1925-1988.

*Guide to British Poetry Explication:*

*Old English-Medieval* Ref PR311.M34 1991 (v.1)  
Index to interpretations of Old English and medieval poetry published between 1925 and 1990.

*Renaissance* Ref PR311.M34 1991 (v.2)  
Index to interpretations of Renaissance poetry published between 1925 and 1991.

*Restoration-Romantic* Ref PR311.M34 1991 (v.3)  
Index to interpretations of Restoration and Romantic poetry published between 1925 and 1992.

*Victorian-Contemporary* Ref PR311.M34 1991 (v.4)  
Index to interpretations of Victorian and contemporary poetry published between 1925 and 1994.

**D. Drama**

*American Drama Criticism (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)* Ref PS332.A44 1979  
Index to interpretations of American plays published between 1890 and 1977.  
Supplements update to 1993.

*Critical Survey of Drama* Ref PR623.C75 2003  
Essays arranged alphabetically by author being discussed, with references to additional resources. Last volume contains essays related to drama in general.

*Dramatic Criticism Index:* Ref PN1707.B68 1972  
*A Bibliography of Commentaries on Playwrights from Ibsen to the Avant-Garde*  
Selective index to criticism on modern playwrights and their plays.

*Guide to American Drama Explication* Ref PS332.O84 1995  
Index to interpretations published between 1942 and 1994.

*Modern Drama Scholarship and Criticism 1966-1980:* Ref PN1851.C37 1986  
*An International Bibliography*

*1981-1990* Ref PN1851.C372 1997  
Supplemented by special issues of the journal *Modern Drama*.

*Shakespearean Criticism* Ref PR2965.S43 1984  
Last volume (*Yearbook 1995*) contains cumulative index to topics for the series arranged alphabetically according to works.