

Subject Guide to Literature

Browsing the Literature Collection

The call number heading for literature is P. In the event that you do not find what you are looking for by simply browsing, please consult the online catalog. Below is a table for the Library of Congress Classification scheme for literature.

P1-1091	Philology & Linguistics (General)	PK 1-6996	Indo-Iranian
PA1-8595	Classical Languages & Literature	PL1-8844	Languages & Literature of Eastern Asia & Africa
PB1-3029	Modern European Languages	PM1-9021	Native American Languages
PC1-5498	Romance Languages	PN1-6790	Literature
PE1-3729	English	PQ1-3999	Romance Literature
PF1-5999	West Germanic	PR1-9680	English Literature
PG1-7925	Slavic, Baltic, Albanian Languages & Literature	PS1-3576	American Literature
PH1-5490	Finno-Urrian, Basque Languages & Literature	PT1-9999	Germanic Literature
PJ1-9293	Oriental Languages & Literature	PZ5-90	Juvenile belles lettres

Selected Reference Books

General

- 📖 **American Writers Classics** [PS129 .A56 Ref] – contains articles focused on single works in American literature, including novels, plays, and nonfiction.
- 📖 **Bartlett's Familiar Quotations** [PN6081 .B27 2002b Ready Ref] -contains a collection of passages, phrases and proverbs traced to their sources in ancient and modern literature.
- 📖 **Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction** [PN56 .P55 .B43 1996 Ref] – contains a compilation of analytical essays on mostly American authors and is a good place to begin research on popular fiction.
- 📖 **British Writers** [PR85 .B688 Ref] – contains signed literary biographies of writers who have made significant contributions to English literature.
- 📖 **Cambridge History of English Literature** [PR83 .C22 Ref] – contains essays on poetry, fiction, drama, theology and political writing.
- 📖 **Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century** [PN771 .E5 1999 Ref] – includes critical articles pertaining to major aspects of world literature, as well as biographical articles about world authors, including bibliographies of works by and about authors.
- 📖 **Cyclopedia of Literary Characters** [PN44 .M3 1998 Ref] – contains brief entries describing and analyzing characters from fiction and drama. Arranged alphabetically by title of work.
- 📖 **Masterplots** [PN44 .M33 1996 Ref] – contains articles providing plot synopses, critical evaluations, and annotated bibliographies of world literature available in English.
- 📖 **Readers Guide to Literature in English** [PR85 R33 1996 Ref] – contains descriptions and evaluations of critical writing on a wide range of topics in English literature. Each entry contains a list of books or articles discussed by the essayist.
- 📖 **MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (seventh edition)** [LB2369 .G53 2009 Ref. Index Table 1]-published by the Modern Language Association and utilized as the style manual for numerous university and college courses. Contains in-depth instructions for “every aspect of research writing”.

Plays

- 📖 **Crown Guide to the World's Great Plays** [PN6112.5 .S45 1984 Ref] – contains a listing of several hundred plays from all periods. Includes plot synopsis, and additional information on the play's history and production.

Poetry

- 📖 **The Columbia Granger's Index to Poetry** [PN1022 .G7 1990 Ref] -includes title, first line, author, and subject indexes for approximately 400 poetry anthologies.
- 📖 **Index to Children's Poetry** [PN1023 .B7 Ref] - includes title, subject, author, and first line entries of poems for children and youth.

Short Stories

- 📖 **Short Story Index** [PN3373 .S58 Ref] – indexes short stories that have appeared in collections and periodicals. Arranged by author, title, and subject in one alphabetical listing.

Criticisms

- 📖 **Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism** [PN610 .C53 Ref] – contains excerpts from criticism of the works of world authors from classical antiquity through the fourteenth century.
- 📖 **Critical Survey of Long Fiction** [PN3451 .C7 Ref] – includes signed critical articles on selected novelists, as well as overview essays on the development and sub-genres of the novel.
- 📖 **Critical Survey of Poetry** [PN1021 .C7 2003 Ref] -contains essays including biographies, principal poetry, analyses, and bibliographies on English-language poets from the time of Ovid to the present, arranged alphabetically by author.
- 📖 **Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800** [PN86 .L56 Ref] – includes excerpts from criticism of the works of novelists, poets, playwrights, philosophers and other creative writers of the fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
- 📖 **McGill's Bibliography of Literary Criticism** [Z6511 .M3 Ready Ref] – contains a list of studies published as books, parts of books, or articles about works of fiction, drama, and poetry.
- 📖 **Nineteenth-Century Literary Criticism** [PN761 .N5 Ref] - contains excerpts from criticism of the works of novelists, poets, playwrights, short story writers, and other creative writers who lived between 1800 and 1900.
- 📖 **Poetry Criticism** [PN1010 .P6 Ref] - includes critical excerpts and biographical information on world poets. Arranged alphabetically by author, each volume contains a cumulative author index, cumulative nationality index, and a cumulative title index of individual poems.
- 📖 **Short Story Criticism (SSC)** [PN3373 .S56 Ref] – contains a compilation of passages from criticism of short story writers representing all countries and all periods, including biographical and bibliographical information.
- 📖 **Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism** [PN771 .G27 Ref] – contains excerpts from criticism of the works of novelists, poets, playwrights, short story writers, and other creative writers who died between 1900 and 1960.

Selected Databases

- 📖 **Literary Reference Center** [EBSCOhost] ^{Off-Campus Full-Text} – Biographies, bibliographies, and critical analyses of authors. Contains the *Masterplots* series, *Cyclopedia of World Authors*, *Cyclopedia of Literary Characters*, *Magill's Literary Annual*, *Magill Book Reviews*, *Critical Surveys*, the Bloom series of criticisms and biographies, and many other reference works. LRC also includes the the full text of many journals along with thousands of poems, short stories, plot summaries.
- 📖 **Literature Resource Center** ^{Off-Campus Full-Text} – provides biographies, bibliographies, and critical analyses of authors. Contains Scribner's Writer's Series, Twayne US, Twayne English, and Twayne World Authors.
- 📖 **MLA International Bibliography** (1963-present) [EBSCOhost] ^{Off-Campus} – covers international scholarly materials on language, literature, linguistics, and folklore in depth. It also covers relevant monographs, working papers, proceedings, bibliographies, and other formats. MLA International Bibliography is the library's primary database for searching journal literature for literary topics.
- 📖 **JSTOR** ^{Off-Campus Full-Text} – Full-text interdisciplinary archive for scholarly journals with additional special publications. Newer issues of covered journals (from 3-5 years) are not included but users can search this material and link to the publisher's site or other online source for access.

Selected Web Sites

- 🔗 **The Online Books Page** [<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/>]– provides free access to over 35, 000 full text books from around the world and various genres. Searches may be done by subject, author, and/or title. In addition, a number of serial archives (both full and partial holdings) are also presented.
- 🔗 **Internet Public Library Literary Criticism** [<http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/>] - contains critical and biographical Websites about authors and their works that can be browsed by author, by title, or by nationality and literary period.
- 🔗 **Literary Resources on the Net** [<http://newark.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/>] – provides links to sites for researchers on literature in English. This site contains several searchable categories, including Medieval, Renaissance, American, and Women's Literature.
- 🔗 **Mississippi Writers Page** [<http://www.olemiss.edu/mwp/>] – provides information on writers associated with the state of Mississippi. This site contains a large collection of articles on each author detailing biographical information, a comprehensive list of published titles, various awards and honors, and a selected bibliography of additional resources, including relevant World Wide Web links
- 🔗 **ORB: The Online Reference Book for Medieval Studies** [<http://the-orb.net/>] – ORB is sponsored by a large number of medieval scholars and professors from the U.S., Canada, and England. The site includes an encyclopedia, a textbook library, e-texts, and links to other web sites.
- 🔗 **Voice of the Shuttle** [<http://vos.ucsb.edu/>] – this general humanities site maintained by Alan Liu, an English professor at UC Santa Barbara, includes high-quality English literature websites. Links to Literary Theory and Literature in English are quite useful.

Have a Question? Ask a Librarian!