

Subject Guide to Literature

Browsing the Literature Collection

The call number heading for literature is P. Please consult the DSU Library online catalog or a librarian if you have any questions concerning an item's call number and specific location. 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

- 📖 **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”.
- 📖 **American Writers Classics** [PS129 .A56 Ref] – contains articles focused on single works in American literature, including novels, plays, and nonfiction.
- 📖 **Beacham’s Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction** [PN56 .P55 .B43 1996 Ref] – contains a compilation of analytical essays on mostly American authors and a good place to begin research on popular fiction.
- 📖 **Book Review Index (BRI)** [Reference Index Table 5] - provides access to thousands of reviews of books, audiobooks, and e-books. “Reviews are culled from over 400 publications from the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia and includes citations for reviews of any type of book, audiobook or e-book that has been or is about to be published” (“Introduction”)
- 📖 **British Writers** [PR85 .B688 Ref] – contains signed literary biographies of writers who have made significant contributions to English literature.
- 📖 **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.
- 📖 **Encyclopedia of African-American Literature** [PS 153. N5 E48 2007 Ref] - “...covers the entire spectrum of the African-American literary tradition from the 18th to the 20th century”. The work “includes entries on major and minor writers...as well as entries on the finest works of African-American literature from all genres and time periods”. (“Introduction”)
- 📖 **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.
- 📖 **The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Multiethnic American Literature** [PS 153. M56 G74 2005 Ref] - “This wonderfully wide-ranging and comprehensive set is unique in its breadth of coverage of the history, trends, and current directions of the nebulous category of writing in the U.S. called multicultural literature.” (*Booklist*)
- 📖 **Masterplots** [PN44 .M33 1996 Ref] – contains articles providing plot synopses, critical evaluations, and annotated bibliographies of world literature available in English.

Plays

- 📖 **Critical Survey of Drama, Magill Revised** [PR 623 .C75 1994 Ref]- “... provides informative and evaluative articles, arranged alphabetically by author, on British, American, and Commonwealth playwrights using a schematic format that includes such elements as primary bibliography, biography, major achievements, and analysis of plays.” (*CHOICE Review*)
- 📖 **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.
- 📖 **Critical Survey of Poetry, Second Revised Edition** [PN 1021.C7 2008]- the 8-volume set offers “essays (which) provide solid introductions to 697 poets and brief, updated, annotated bibliographies of secondary sources in English.” Also, “Volume 8 contains 54 essays reflecting the growing emphasis on literary theory and international literature.” (*CHOICE Review*)

Short Stories

- 📖 **Reference Guide to Short Fiction** [PN 3373 .R36 1994 Ref] - “includes entries on the most significant writer of short fiction from the 19th and 20th centuries”. “The entry for each writer includes a biography, a complete list of the writer’s published books, a selected list of bibliographies, critical studies on the writer, and a signed critical essay” (“Editor’s Note”)
- 📖 **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.
- 📖 **Short Story Writers** [PN 3373 .S398 1997 Ref] - “surveys 102 of the most important authors of short fiction” in essay format (“Publisher’s Note”).

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.
- 📖 **Contemporary Literary Criticism (CLC)** [PN 771. C59 Ref]- provides literary criticisms for more than 65,000 20th century works
- 📖 **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.
- 📖 **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** ^{Off-Campus Some 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 full text of many journals along with thousands of poems, short stories, plot summaries.
- 📖 **Literature Resource Center** ^{Off-Campus Some 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) ^{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

- 🔗 **Ipl2** [<http://www.ipl.org/div/subject>]- “An annotated collection of high quality Internet resources” selected by librarians for usefulness in providing accurate, factual information on a particular topic or topics”. (“Resources by Subject”). The “Arts & Humanities” as well as the “Reference” selections are particularly helpful for locating Literature-related resources.
- 🔗 **Project Gutenberg** [http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page]-“the first and largest single collection of free electronic books” (“Gutenberg: About”). The site offers free viewing and downloading of copyright-expired print and audio books as well as sheet music and foreign-language materials. Users can search for holdings by author, title, language or recently posted and new materials are added daily.

- ☞ **The Online Books Page** [<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/>]- provides free access to over 40, 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.
- ☞ **OWL Purdue Online Writing Lab** [<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>]- supplies online tutorials and resources oriented for nearly all aspects of the writing process. The Modern Language Association (MLA) formatting and style guide is extremely helpful (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>).
- ☞ **University of Texas at Austin, Department of Rhetoric and Writing (Undergraduate Writing Center)** [<http://uwc.utexas.edu/handouts>]- online versions of handouts created for University of Texas undergraduates. Topics range from correct grammar usage to paraphrasing.

**For off-campus access to subscription databases, use the Remote Accessible Database Log-in page available from: <http://ezproxy.deltastate.edu:2048/login>. You will need your 900 number and your 6-digit password for access.*

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