

Subject Guide to World Literature

Browsing the World Literature Collection

Roberts-LaForge Library maintains a substantial collection of world literature sources. Browsing, although serendipitous, may not prove the best way to find what you need. For books on a specific topic such as devotional lyric, Chinese poetry, or literary symbolism, it is much quicker and effective to use the library catalog.

The call number range for world literature extends from PG through PT. Please note this range includes languages as well. In the event that you do not find what you are looking for by simply browsing, please consult the online catalog and perform searches for a particular author, topic, or region. Below is a table of the Library of Congress Classification scheme relating to world literature.

PG 2900-3698	Russian	PQ 1-3999	French
PG 8001-9665	Baltic and Albanian	PQ 4001-5999	Italian
PJ 5001-5060	Hebrew	PQ 6001-8929	Spanish
PJ 6001-8517	Arabic	PT 1-4897	German
PK 6400-6599.7	Indo-Iranian	PT 5001-5980	Dutch
PL 700-899	Japanese	PT 7001-7099	Scandinavian
PL 950-998	Korean	PT 7601-9155	Danish and Norwegian
PL 2250-3208	Chinese	PT 9201-9999	Swedish
PL 8009.5-8014	African		

Selected Reference Books

- 📖 **Concise Encyclopedia of World Literature** [PN 41 .C64 Ref] – Handy one-volume work covering regional overviews, forms of literature, individual author biographies, and prize winners. Although a bit dated, this title may offer information on topics not covered in newer volumes.
- 📖 **Cyclopedia of World Authors** [PN 451 .C93 1989 4 volumes Ref] – Biographical entries for over 700 authors. Bibliographic references are given at the end of each entry.
- 📖 **Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century** [PN 771 .E5 1999 4 volumes Ref] – “Comprehensive survey of significant literary activity of international scope.” This multi-volume set covers all pertinent literatures, movements, and authors of the world. This title represents the most thorough and recent work that Roberts-LaForge Library has on 20th century world literature.
- 📖 **MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (Seventh edition)** [LB 2369 .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”.
- 📖 **Reader’s Companion to World Literature** [PN 41 .R4 2002 Ref] – Covering the world’s most influential authors and works, this title offers a compact single resource for biographical and critical information. The *Reader’s Companion* also includes information on literary movements and technical terms and phrases. The absence of references or additional resources limits the work’s potential, but all things considered, this is a worthwhile resource.
- 📖 **Timetables of World Literature** [PN 524 .K87 2003 Ref] – Spans from the Classical Age to the present, this source provides important births, deaths, publications, and literary events for each year.
- 📖 **World Literature and Its Times** [Call numbers vary – check catalog for specific volume] – As part of a projected twelve-volume set, each volume focuses on the major works from a region or ethnic group. In addition to a general description of the work, each entry contains a lengthy evaluation of the work’s influence and literary, social, and political contexts. Roberts-LaForge Library plans to collect all volumes in this series.
- 📖 **Contemporary Authors** [Call numbers vary-check Index Table 4 in the Reference Department for specific volumes]-“presents biographical and bibliographical data on more than 120,000 modern authors,”

Selected Databases

- 📖 **Literature Resource Center** ^{Off-campus Full Text} – Includes biographies, bibliographies, and critical analyses of authors from around the world and their works.
- 📖 **Literary Reference Center** [EBSCOhost] – 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.
- 📖 **MLA International Bibliography (1963-Present)** [EBSCOhost] ^{Off-campus} – Covers international scholarly materials on language, literature, linguistics, and folklore. 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} – Serves as a full-text digital repository for a number of disciplines including world literatures. JSTOR does not provide coverage for recent content, but is an excellent and reliable source for past scholarly journal articles, book reviews, and conference papers.

Selected Web Sites

- 🔗 **Librarians' Index to the Internet** [<http://www.ipl.org/>]-“Information You Can Trust.” This site will help you find authoritative, worthwhile Internet resources on almost any topic. Search for specific topics such as Chinese poetry, Renaissance literature, or search for something as broad as “world literature.”
- 🔗 **DMOZ Open Directory Project/ World Literature** [http://www.dmoz.org/Arts/Literature/World_Literature/]-“The most comprehensive human edited directory on the Web”. Contains open source links to a multitude of broadly-defined topics and a great place to locate a wide variety of information on the Web.
- 🔗 **Project Gutenberg** [http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page]-Provides over 100,000 free electronic books, audio books, and cds and dvds. The online catalog on the site's main page allows for searching and browsing for materials and a number of foreign language books are offered. Over 33,000 free eBooks can currently be downloaded to personal computers and portable devices such as iPad, Kindle and iPhone.
- 🔗 **Bibliomania**[<http://www.bibliomania.com/>]-Offers thousands of e-books, poems, articles, short stories, and poems free for readers. Study guides of numerous texts are offered in the forms of in-depth summaries, discussions, and commentaries and Bibliomania's reference section is extensive.

Selected Print Journals Relating to World Literature Available from Roberts-LaForge Library

<i>Critica Hispanica</i> (mostly Spanish but some English language entries)	<i>Modern Language Review</i>
<i>Comparative Literature</i>	<i>World Literature Today</i>
<i>Literature and Film Quarterly</i>	<i>Chaucer Review</i>
<i>Milton Quarterly</i>	<i>Shakespeare Studies</i>
<i>Revista Iberoamericana</i>	<i>Yale French Studies</i>
<i>Victorian Poetry</i>	<i>Die Zeit</i>
	<i>Mediaevalia</i>

*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.

Roberts-LaForge Library also provides electronic access to journals through its **Electronic Journals Holdings** page located at <http://www.deltastate.edu/pages/177.asp>. Select the “E-Journals” option. Searches may be done by subject, index, or title. Some titles may overlap with the library's print subscriptions.

Have a Question? Ask a Librarian.

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