This guide lists a selection of the more important sources of information on Literatures in English available at Concordia Libraries. It includes material held in the Webster Library (WEB) on the Sir George Williams Downtown Campus, in the Vanier Library (VAN) on the Loyola Campus and/or available online. Most materials are located in the Reference area (REF). This is not a complete list. Additional resources may be found by searching CLUES, the library catalogue.

For more information, consult the Research Guides by Subject available on the Libraries’ Web site at http://library.concordia.ca/research/subjects/, the Sources in Canadian Literature handout, or contact the reference librarian. Databases are accessible on the Libraries’ Web site at http://library.concordia.ca/research/databases/.

Guides to the Literature

Bibliographical Guide to the Study of the Literature of the USA
Guide to English Literature
Cambridge Guide to Literature in English
Literary Research Guide (Harner)
Reference Guide for English Studies (Marcuse)
Reference Works in British and American Literature (Bracken)

Handbooks and Encyclopedias

Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia
Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature
Cambridge Handbook of American Literature
Columbia Companion to the 20th Century American Short Story (2001)
Companion to African Literatures
Continuum Encyclopedia of American Literature
Dictionary of Native American Literature
Encyclopedia of British Women Writers
Encyclopedia of Post-Colonial Literatures in English 2nd ed.
Feminist Companion to Literature in English
Handbook to Literature
New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics (Print)
New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics (Online)
Oxford Chronology of English Literature
Oxford Companion to African American Literature
Concise Oxford Companion to African American Literature
Oxford Companion to American Literature (Print)
Oxford Companion to American Literature (Online)
Oxford Companion to Australian Literature (Print)
Oxford Companion to Australian Literature (Online)  
Oxford Companion to English Literature (Print)  
Oxford Companion to English Literature (Online)  
Oxford Companion to Irish Literature  
Concise Oxford Companion to Irish Literature  
Oxford Companion to New Zealand Literature  
Oxford Companion to Shakespeare  
Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Literature in English  
Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Poetry in English (Print)  
Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Poetry in English (Online)  
Oxford Companion to Women's Writing in the United States  

Dictionaries, Literary Terminology and Theory

Bedford Glossary Of Critical And Literary Terms  
Book of Literary Terms: The Genres of Fiction, Drama, Nonfiction, Literary Criticism, and Scholarship  
Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms (Online)  
Continuum Encyclopedia of Modern Criticism and Theory  
Dictionary of Literary Terms And Literary Theory (Cuddon)  
Dictionary of Literary Themes and Motifs  
Edinburgh Encyclopaedia Of Modern Criticism And Theory  
Glossary of Contemporary Literary Theory  
Glossary Of Literary Terms (Abrams)  
Handbook of Literary Terms: Language, Theory, Criticism  
Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism  
Literary Terms: A Dictionary (Beckson)  
Multicultural Dictionary of Literary Terms  
Twentieth Century Literary Movements Dictionary  

Collections of Criticism and Biographical Sources

African Writers  
American Writers; a Collection of Literary Biographies – 4 vol.  
British Writers – 8 vol. + supplements  
Caribbean Writers  

Literature Resource Center includes:  
Contemporary Authors  
Dictionary of Literary Biography  

Literature Resource Center also includes selections from:  
Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism  
Contemporary Literary Criticism  
Dictionary of Literary Biography  
Drama Criticism  
Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800  
Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism
Books of Literary Criticism and Bibliographies

In CLUES search More Options: Subject Heading or Keywords in Subject Heading, using the author’s name as a subject heading, last name first. Look for subdivisions, such as Bibliography, Characters, Criticism and Interpretation, or the title of a literary work. Examples:

SUBJECT: Austen Jane 1775 1817 Criticism And Interpretation
SUBJECT: Dickens Charles 1812 1870 Characters
SUBJECT: Twain Mark 1835 1910 Adventures Of Huckleberry Finn
SUBJECT: James Henry 1843 1916 Bibliography

Databases and Periodical Indexes

When searching for secondary sources on a literary topic, one generally begins by finding books in CLUES, then by identifying scholarly journal articles in a bibliographic database. The MLAIB and ABELL, which can be searched simultaneously, are normally the first databases to consult.

MLA International Bibliography (MLAIB) (1926-onward) – Provides references to articles from more than 4,400 journals, as well as dissertations, and essays in books. Includes selective fulltext

ABELL: Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature (1920-onward) – Provides references to journal articles, books, dissertations, and book reviews. Includes selective fulltext.

Other Databases and Indexes:

Alternative Press Index (1969-onward) – provides citations to articles from non-traditional information sources.

British Humanities Index – A multidisciplinary periodical index with significant coverage of literary arts topics. Locations: Vanier Indexes (1966-96), Webster Indexes (1959-onward) PE 1 A2, and Webster Reference CD-ROM (2003-onward)

Essay and General Literature Index (1900-onward) – Provides references to essays and articles contained in books published in the United States, Great Britain, and Canada. Locations: Vanier Index (1900-2004) and Webster Index (1900-onward) AI 3 E8

IMB: International Medieval Bibliography (1967-onward) – Provides references to journal articles and other items, covering all aspects of medieval studies from 450 to 1500.

Iter: Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance (1784-onward) – Provides references to journal articles and other items, covering all aspects of the Middle Ages and Renaissance from 400 to 1700.

Literature Online (LION) – A fulltext database consisting of more than 350,000 works of English and American poetry, drama, and prose from 600 to the early 20th century. Includes some later 20th century poems.

Literature Resource Center (LRC) – Provides fulltext of biographies, bibliographies, and critical analyses of authors from every age and literary discipline. Includes more than 250 fulltext journals.

Literary History

Cambridge History of American Literature – 8 vol. projected
General Bibliographies

- Cambridge History of Medieval English Literature
- Columbia Literary History of the United States
- Oxford English Literary History – 13 vol. projected
- Short Oxford History of English Literature

Book Review Indexes

- ABELL: Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature
- Book Review Digest (1905-onward)
- Book Review Index (WEB 1980-onward, VAN 1970-onward)
- Canadian Periodical Index - See section "book reviews." (1920-2002)
- Combined Retrospective Index to Book Reviews in Humanities Journals, 1802-1974
- Combined Retrospective Index to Book Reviews in Scholarly Journals, 1886-1974
- Humanities Abstracts (1984-onward)
- Humanities Index (book review section in the back of each volume)

Indexes to Collections

- Columbia Granger's Index to Poetry
- Columbia Granger's Index to Poetry in Anthologies
- Columbia Granger's Index to Poetry in Collected and Selected Works
- Essay and General Literature Index (1900-onward)
- Inter-Play: An On-line Index to Plays in Collections, Anthologies and Periodicals (free on the Internet – late 1800s-onward)
- Play Index (WEB REF 1949-1997 VAN REF 1949-onward)
- Short Story Index (WEB REF 1950-1989 VAN REF 1950-onward)

Directories

- International Literary Market Place
- Literary Market Place: The Directory of American Book Publishing
- MLA Directory of Periodicals (via MLA International Bibliography)

If you need assistance, please ask at the Reference Desk

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