

PARSIPPANY HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
World Literature: Selected Sources for Literary Research

Biographical Sources

1. Contemporary Authors (REF 928 CO) Open series.
Use the latest cumulative index. Within each volume the arrangement is alphabetical by author. Brief, factual articles give biographical information and lists works for current authors.
2. Encyclopedia of World Biography (REF 920.02 McG) 20 Volumes.
Signed articles on persons important to social and cultural history. Includes a brief biographical synopsis with portrait followed by a short bibliography.
3. Great Lives From History: Twentieth Century Series (REF 920.009 GRE) 5 Volumes.
Examines the lives of those whose contributions had great impact on modern culture since 1900.
4. Spanish American Authors: the Twentieth Century (REF 860.9 FLO)
A biographical dictionary containing profiles and extensive bibliographies of the most significant novelists and poets of Spanish America.
5. Webster's New Biographical Dictionary (REF 920.03 WEB)
Brief entries of people both living and dead and of all nations. Living persons, whose biographies are virtually impossible to keep up-to-date in a book of this nature, are not included. See Current Biography, Who's Who, etc.

Bio-Critical Sources

1. Ancient Writers: Greece and Rome (REF 880.09 ANC) 2 volumes.
Critical Survey of the writers of the classical period - From the time of Homer to the death of the Roman emperor Constantine I (A.D.337). The articles are in chronological order and range in length from 8,000 to 20,000 words. Bibliographies conclude each article.
2. Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction (REF 809.3 BEA) 13 volumes.
Provides essays on and study activities for the works of authors of popular fiction. Includes biographical data, publishing history, and resources for the author of each analyzed work. Twelve appendices are designed to help readers identify titles, authors, and themes they want to research.
3. Cassell's Encyclopedia of World Literature (REF 803 CAS) 3 volumes.
An historical accounting of World Literature from the earliest oral traditions to the present. Volume 1 - Histories and general articles, Volume 2 and 3 - Biological information
4. Cyclopedia of World Authors (REF 928 CYC) 5 volumes
Entries give biographical details, critical evaluations, and a list of each writer's principal works.
5. Dictionary of Literary Biography (REF 810.9 DIC) Open, multi-volume series.
The series is organized by topic, period or genre. Encompasses all who have contributed to the greatness of literature, predominately American and British but some world authors are included. Most entries deal with the subject's life, major works and critical reputation – i.e., the author's relationship to the social concerns and literary movements of the times. **USE THE INDEX IN THE LAST VOLUME WITH CUMULATIVE INDEX ON SPINE OR GALE'S LITERARY INDEX** (see online resources)
6. Dictionary of Oriental Literature (REF 890.3 PRU) 4 volumes.
Concise entries about the literature of Asia and North Africa.

7. Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century (REF 803 ENC) 4 volumes.
Articles on individual writers, major genres of literature, and the history of literature - alphabetically arranged. There are two sets on the shelves- one is a newer edition. Check both editions.
8. European Writers (REF 809.89 EUR) 14 volumes.
Organized into four historical periods. All articles are approximately 15,000 words in length and are arranged chronologically. They combine biographical background and a clear, incisive critical discussion of the works. A bibliography of works by and about the subject concludes each article; a separate comprehensive index volume completes the set.
9. Great Literature of the Eastern World (REF 895 GRE)
A guide to over 100 of the most noteworthy literary works of China, India, Japan, Korea and the Middle East. Entries include basic biographical information and critical accounts of the content and style of each work.
10. Great World Writers: Twentieth Century (REF 809 GRE) 13 volumes.
Articles are arranged alphabetically by writer. Each article includes highlights of the writer's personal and professional life and contributions to literature. Detailed critical analyses of two or three of the most notable and representative works include lists of sources for further study. In addition to the two-page indexes found in volumes 1-12, volume 13 provides a comprehensive index.
11. Popular Contemporary Writers (REF 810.9 POP) 11 volumes. A collection of signed articles on 96 contemporary writers. Arranged in 10 volumes in A-Z format with additional index volume. Sections include: The Writer's Life, The Writer's Work, The Reader's Guide to Major Works (critical analysis of two or more works), List of Published Works, and a critical bibliography.
12. Twayne Companion to Contemporary World Literature (REF 809.04 TWA)
This title constitutes a global guide to contemporary literature from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe. Includes reprinted book reviews from World Literature Today from 1977-2001 as well as choice essays covering the half-century from 1927-1976.
13. World Literature and Its Times (REF 803 WOR) multi-volume.
Volumes are arranged geographically. Essays help to make connections between the political/social climate during which books were written and the works themselves. Focuses on major fiction, poetry and nonfiction from a particular country or region.
14. World Authors 1900-1950(REF 928 WOR) 4 volumes.
Incisive accounts of writers' lives and works, including critical responses and bibliographies.

Similar: You may use the Index to Wilson Authors Series (REF 928 IND)
World Authors 1950-1970
World Authors 1970-1975
World Authors 1975-1980
World Authors 1980-1985
World Authors 1985-1990

Sources For Literary Criticism

A. Bibliographies and Indexes

1. Anatomy of Wonder: A Critical Guide to Science Fiction (REF 016.808 ANA)
Each major era in Science Fiction writing is discussed accompanied by a comprehensive, annotated bibliography of the novels and anthologies for each period.

2. Granger's Index to Poetry (REF 808.81 GRA)

An index to individual poems in collections of poetry. It has three indexes: one by authors a subject index and a title and first lines index. The title index is the main entry and includes a symbol for the collection of poetry in which the poem will be found. A key to the symbols is located in the front of Granger's.

Similar: No cumulative index: must refer to all volumes
Short Story Index (REF 808.83 SHO)
Play Index 808.82 PLA

3. Magill's Bibliography of Literary Criticism (REF 809 MAG) 4 volumes.

Arranged alphabetically by author, then by title, then by authors of citations. Citations are from many sources - magazines, newspapers, parts of books and entire books.

Similar: Twentieth Century Short Story Explication (REF 016. 808 TWE)
Dramatic Criticism Index (REF 016.809 BR)

B. General Critical sources

1. Contemporary Literary Criticism (REF 809 CON) A multi-volume companion to Contemporary Authors.

Includes excerpts from criticisms published during the last 25 years of works of long-established authors still living in 1960, as well as those of lesser importance literally who are currently in public interest and by writers of mystery and science fiction. Use the index in the last volume that has a **cumulative index or Gale's Literary Index (online)**.

Similar: Twentieth Century Literary Criticism (REF 809 TWE)
Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism (REF 809.04 NIN)

2. Library of Literary Criticism: Modern French Literature (REF 840.009 MOD)

Excerpts from criticisms of each author's work written since 1900. Arranged alphabetically with a selected bibliography at the end of each author section.

Similar: Modern Black Writers (REF 809,889 MOD)
Modern Latin American Literature (REF 860.9 FOS)
Modern Slavic Literature (REF 891.7 MOD)
Modern Spanish and Portuguese Literature (REF 860 MOD)
Modern Women Writers (REF 809.89 MOD)

3. Masterpieces of Latino Literature (REF 860.998 MAS)

Critical summaries and descriptions of the greatest works of literature by Latino authors. Important facts and dates of authorship, along with analyses of characters, settings, themes, and plots are included for works in every genre, including: autobiographies, novels, poetry, plays, essays, and short stories.

C. Genre Critical Sources

1. Critical Survey of Drama: English Language Series (REF 809.2 MAG). 7 Vols.

Articles review a dramatist's work identifying themes and characteristics. Entries are arranged alphabetically by the author in volumes one through five. Volume six includes a glossary of terms, essays covering historical periods, dramatic theory, staging and techniques, and an annotated bibliography.

2. Critical Survey of Long Fiction (REF 809.3 CRI) 8 volumes.

Covers classical and contemporary novelists from the United States and abroad. Arranged alphabetically by author. Volumes 1 - 7 present essays analyzing important aspects of each writer's life and work. Volume 8 is a collection of essays discussing the history and different types of novels and novellas.

3. Critical Survey of Long Fiction: Foreign Language Series (REF 809.3 MAG) 5 Vols.
A comprehensive study of long fiction authors writing in languages other than English. Includes original essays on the history and development of the novel in various geographic regions.
4. Critical Survey of Mystery and Detective Fiction (REF 908.3 CRI) 4 volumes.
Presents critical studies of more than 290 authors from around the world dating from the mid-eighteenth century through 1988.
5. Critical Survey of Poetry: English Language Series (REF 809.1 CRI) 8 volumes.
Arranged alphabetically by author. Contains essays on individual poets, the historical and critical background essential for reading poetry, and exhaustive indexing of poets by their given and pen names, titles of collections, titles of poems discussed, critical terminology, and literary movements. Revised edition is also on the shelves
6. Critical Survey of Short Fiction (REF 809 MAG) 7 volumes.
For works longer than a short story. Volume 1 and volume 2 contain in-depth essays exploring many aspects of the genre and reviews of important new short fiction writers. Volumes 2-6 are arranged alphabetically by author. Articles include biographical data, author's influence, story characteristics, and a bibliography. Volume 7 is the index.
Revised edition (REF 809.3 CRI) - essays are in volume 7
7. Encyclopedia of Apocalyptic Literature (REF 809.933 ZIM).
Discussions of the major authors whose work is based on ideas and motifs found in apocalypses – the universal between good and evil, the instances of supernatural intervention, and the ultimate judgment of humanity after death.
8. Encyclopedia of Literary Epics (809.132 JAC)
Analyzes the monumental works that are the cornerstones of the Western literary canon – from Vergil's Aeneid to twentieth-century works such as Ezra Pound's The Cantos and The Bridge by Hart Crane. Less familiar poems from the Western tradition and cultures around the world are also included.
9. Encyclopedia of Satirical Literature (REF 809.7 SNO).
Commentary on some of the best and most influential satirical works from throughout history and around the world. Organized alphabetically. Entries for individual works feature plot summaries and analyses of satirical content. Author entries include glimpses of colorful lives and masterly achievements.
10. Encyclopedia of Traditional Epics (REF 398.22 ENC)
Focuses on the major world epics and related mythological topics. Most of the epics discussed are rooted in the oral tradition but a number of literary epics that incorporate traditional material are included.
11. Encyclopedia of Utopian Literature (REF 809.7 SNO).
Concise summaries and insightful analyses of major titles. Provides biographical data plus definitions of themes and terms as they pertain to utopian ideals.
12. McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of World Drama (REF 809.2 McG) 5 volumes.
A comprehensive bio-critical guide to all aspects of world drama. Articles range from African Theatre to Yugoslav Drama. Entries on major dramatists include biographical data, an assessment of his/her creative achievements, synopsis of major plays, bibliographies.
13. Short Story Criticism (REF 809.3 SHO)
Presents excerpts from criticism of the world's greatest short story writers and provides supplementary biographical and bibliographical materials.

14. Short Story Writers (REF 809.3 SHO) 3 volumes.
Surveys the most important authors of short fiction. Essays are arranged alphabetically by author and include achievements, biographies, and analysis of various works. Volume three contains a glossary and techniques commonly used in the study of short fiction.

15. Survey of Science Fiction Literature - Magill (REF 809.38 SUR) 5 volumes.
Essay reviews of outstanding science fiction novels and short story collections. Entries are arranged alphabetically by title and provide the author, publication dates along with the time and location of the action, brief description of the work and list of main characters. Bibliographies included.

Similar: Survey of Fantasy Literature (REF 808.8MAG) 5 volume

16. Supernatural Fiction Writers: Fiction and Horror (REF 809.3 SUP) 2 volumes.
Critical survey of major writers of Supernatural Fiction from Greco-Roman times to the present. The articles include biography description and interpretation of major works critical evaluation, and assessment of the author's historical position. Bibliographies conclude each article.

Similar: Science Fiction Writers (REF 809.3 SCI)
Mystery and Suspense Writers: the Literature of Crime, Detection, and Espionage (REF 809.3 MYS) 2 volumes

D. Support References

1. Masterplots (REF 808.8 MAG) 12 volumes. Kept in the media center office.
Organized alphabetically by title. Critiques and critical evaluations of world literature to 1956. Entries contain plot summaries and a list of characters. Use only for supplemental purposes. Author index in volume 12.

Similar: MasterplotsII: American Fiction Series
Masterplots II: British and Commonwealth Fiction Series
Masterplots II: Drama Series
Masterplots II: Poetry Series
Masterplots II: World Fiction Series

2. Survey of Contemporary Literature (REF 809.04 MAG) 12 volumes.
Alphabetical by title. Sequel to Masterplots, covering titles between 1954-1976. Unlike Masterplots, this series contains no summaries of works - only criticism.
3. Magill's Literary Annuals (REF 809.04 MAG) continues the series from 1976 to the present.

E. In-Depth Criticism (Accessed through the online catalog Library Explorer)

1. Modern Critical Interpretation Series
2. Modern Critical Views
3. Norton Critical Series - Complete text with notes and critical essays
4. Twayne Author Series - Comprehensive analysis of an author and his/her work.
5. Twayne's Masterwork Studies
6. Twayne's Studies in Short Fiction Series
7. Twentieth Century Views Series - Comprehensive analysis of a specific writer.
8. Twentieth Century Interpretations Series - Comprehensive analysis of a work.
9. Individual Books of Criticism (period, genre, person).

F. Histories

1. A History of French Literature. Cazamikan, L. (840.9 C)
Explores the major French literary works, authors, and trends from 1140 to 1950, emphasizing psychological currents influencing their development.

Similar: A History of Latin Literature (870.9 H)

G. Handbooks

1. The Crown Guide to the World's Great Plays (REF 809.2 SHI)
Devoted chiefly to drama classics. Includes plots, performances, casts, analyses and criticisms from Ancient Greece to modern times.
2. Crowell's Handbook of Classical Drama (REF 880 HA))
Alphabetically arranged entries provide critical commentary on all the known plays.

Similar: Crowell's Handbook of Classical Literature (REF 880.3 FED)

3. Harper's Dictionary of Classical Literatures and Antiquities (REF 938.PEC)
Alphabetically arranged, concise entries on the life, literature, religion and art of classical antiquity
4. New Century Classical Handbook (REF 938 NEW)
Entries describe the great personalities, ideas and accomplishments of classical Greece and Rome. Areas include archaeology, architecture, art, geography, history, literature, mythology, philosophy, religion and science.
5. Oxford Classical Dictionary (REF 913.38 O)
A scholarly dictionary, with signed articles, covering biography, literature, mythology, philosophy, religion, science, geography, etc. Most articles are brief. Bibliographies are appended to most articles.
6. Oxford Companion to German Literature (REF 830.3 GAR)
A one-volume guide to German Literature, arranged alphabetically in a dictionary format.

Similar: Oxford Companion to American Literature (RED 810.9C)
Oxford Companion to Classical Literature (REF 880.9 OXF)
Oxford Companion to French Literature (REF 840.3 H)
Oxford Companion to Spanish Literature (REF 880.3 OXF)
Oxford Companion to the Theatre (REF 792.03 HAR)

7. Reader's Encyclopedia - Benet (REF 803 BEN)
This one volume work contains (in dictionary format) information on books, literary characters and terms and authors.

BOOK REVIEWS

Book Review Digest - Excerpts of and citations to reviews of current fiction and non-fiction in the English Language. Entries are alphabetical by author. Subject and Title Index follows the main body of the Digest.

IMPORTANT: You must know the publication date of your book in order to retrieve the information. Use the verso side of the title page or the card catalog to find the year of publication.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Online Subscriptions - Databases --Accessible from the Media Center Home Page

1. Infotrac Gale Database

Discovering Collection -multiple databases offer illustrated biographies of authors and criticisms of their works

Contemporary Authors – biographical information on current writers, as well as the most-studied literary figures of the early 20th century, and authors from around the world whose works have been translated in English.

2. EBSCOhost

Provides access to full text articles published recently in important scholarly publications such as Literary Review, New England Quarterly, Latin American Literary Review, Essays in Criticism (Oxford), and Yale Journal of Criticism.

Curriculum Links - English

1. Gale's Literary Index

Very useful tool to locate specific works and authors in any Gale Publications including Contemporary Literary Criticism, Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism, Twentieth Century Literary Criticism, Literature and Its Times and other multi-volume works.