



# **BRITISH LITERATURE PATHFINDER**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Research on literary topics can be confusing and challenging. You may be searching for a critical essay evaluating a particular work or an author's work as a whole, for information about an author's life and times or you may be looking for the literary work itself. The purpose of this pathfinder is to provide a starting point for such research. Both print and electronic resources are listed and are only a sampling of what is available in the BRCC library and other libraries.

## **HOW TO FIND BOOKS**

Books by and about English authors and English literature are shelved in the **PR** section of the library. However, some fiction and some of the general sources of literary criticism or literary biography, which will include English authors, will be found in other areas.

## **HOW TO USE THE ONLINE LIBRARY CATALOG (CCLINC)**

The BRCC Library is part of a combined catalog of over forty North Carolina community college libraries called **CCLINC**. **CCLINC**'s catalog allows you to search for materials at Blue Ridge or at any other member library, or at all member libraries simultaneously.

1. To find books **by** a particular author, search the **AUTHOR INDEX**, entering the last name first, followed by a comma, a space and the first name, if you know it.

**Examples: Chaucer, Geoffrey or Wells, H.G.**

2. To find titles **about** a particular author, such as a biography or a critical discussion of the author's work, search the **SUBJECT INDEX** using the same form of the name as above. **Browse** the subject headings related to the author's name to find books about a specific aspect of an author's work or life.

**Examples: Shakespeare, William**

**Shakespeare, William – Biography**

**Shakespeare, William -- Criticism and Interpretation**

A **key word** search such as "Romanticism and criticism" or "Shakespeare and biography" is another useful approach.

3. To locate a **short story** or **play**, which might be found in a collection, use **SEARCH EVERYTHING**, which will search any contents listed in the record.
4. Titles from several literary criticism series' are available for checkout. Many titles from *Twayne's English Authors*, *Modern Critical Views* or *Twayne's Studies of Short Fiction* are available. You will find such titles as *William Shakespeare: Comedies and Romances, Modern Critical Views*; *James Joyce Revisited, (Twayne's English Authors Series)*; *William Wordsworth, Modern Critical Views*. Always [Search the Library Catalog](#) for particular authors or titles.

Once you have located appropriate titles in the catalog, use the Library of Congress call number to locate the book on the shelf. Criticisms and biographies of an author are usually **but not always** shelved near the author's works.

## **HOW TO SEARCH MORE EFFECTIVELY USING LC SUBJECT HEADINGS**

Library of Congress Subject Headings can be useful for developing a search vocabulary, identifying accepted terminology used in library catalogs and some electronic databases. *Library of Congress Subject Headings*, the red volumes found on the index tables in the library, lists accepted subject words, cross references from unused words and also lists related, broader or narrower terms also useful for searching. Correct words to use to [Search the Library Catalog](#) using the Subject Index are in bold type.

For example: if you look up **Victorian Literature** you will find

**Victorian Literature**

**USE English Literature – 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

OR if you look up **Miracle plays** you will find

**Miracle Plays**

**USE Mysteries and miracle plays**

If you look up **English Drama** you will see

**English Drama**

**BT English Literature**

**NT English Drama (Comedy)**

**English Drama (Tragedy)  
Moralties, English  
Mysteries and miracle plays, English**

Other useful subject headings are

**English Literature – Old English**  
--Middle English  
--Early Modern  
--18<sup>th</sup> Century  
--19<sup>th</sup> century  
--20<sup>th</sup> century  
--History and Criticism  
--Women authors

**Irish Literature**

**Scottish Literature**

For a complete listing see the *Library of Congress Subject Headings* books.

Abbreviation key

BT="Broader Terms" are other Subject Headings that are more general.

NT="Narrower Terms" are other Subject Headings that are more specific

RT="Related Terms" are other Subject Headings that are somehow related, but not more general or specific.

UF= "Used For" terms are unused terms that the Subject Heading describes

**HOW TO BROWSE FOR BOOKS USING CALL NUMBER RANGES**

For browsing certain areas in the stacks, use the following call number ranges:

**PR1-9680 ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**PR1-PR937 LITERARY HISTORY AND CRITICISM, BUT NOT INDIVIDUAL AUTHORS AND WORKS**

PR1-56 Literary history and criticism  
PR57-78 Criticism  
PR111-116 Women authors  
PR125-(138.5) Relations to other literatures and countries  
PR161-(479) By period  
PR171-236 Anglo-Saxon (Beginnings through 1066)  
PR251-369 Medieval. Middle English (1066-1500)  
PR401-(479) Modern  
PR421-(429) Elizabethan era (1550-1640)  
PR431-(439) 17th century  
PR441-(449) 18th century  
PR451-(469) 19th century  
PR471-(479) 20th century  
PR500-611 Poetry  
PR521-611 By period  
PR621-739 Drama  
PR641-739 By period  
PR750-885 Prose  
PR821-888 Prose fiction. The novel  
PR911-917 Letters

PR931-937 Wit and humor

PR 1105-1109 **Anthologies**

PR1110 Special classes of authors

PR1119-1150 By period

PR1170-1227 Poetry

PR1241-1273 Drama

PR1281-1309 Prose (General)

PR1330 Diaries

PR1361-1369 Essays

**PR 1583-9680 (INDIVIDUAL AUTHORS, THEIR WORKS, BIOGRAPHIES, CRITICISMS)**

PR1490-1799 Anglo-Saxon literature

PR1803-2165 Anglo-Norman period. Early English. Middle English

PR2199-3195 English Renaissance (1500-1640)

**SHAKESPEARE** – PR2753-3112

PR3291-3785 17th and 18th centuries (1640-1770)

PR3991-5990 19th century, 1770/1800-1890/1900

PR6000-6049 1900-1960

PR6050-6076 1961-

PR8309-9680 English literature: Provincial, local, etc.

**A more complete outline of the LCCS is available from:**

Cataloging Policy and Support Office. [Library of Congress Classification Outline](http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/lcco/lcco.html). Available [Online]:  
[http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/lcco/lcco.html/](http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/lcco/lcco.html)



**SOME HELPFUL BOOKS**

**HANDBOOKS, COMPANIONS, ENCYCLOPEDIAS**

**Ref PR 19 .094 2000**

***Oxford Companion to English Literature*. New York: Oxford, 2000.**

Brief articles on English authors of all time periods (poets, dramatists, novelists, essayists) are alphabetically arranged and include plots of literary works; literary terms and allusions (references in literature to famous historical or literary figures or events); principle characters, societies and movements. Survey articles are on significant topics. A “standard source.” Appendices include literary award winners and a chronology connecting dates literary works are written with historical events.

**Ref PN 3373 R36 1994**

***Reference Guide to Short Fiction*. Detroit, MI: St. James Press, 1994.**

The most significant writers of short fiction worldwide from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries are included. Each entry consists of a biography, list of writings, selected bibliography of further reading and a signed critical essay. Use the title index if a short story title is known but not the author.

**Ref PN 2035 .B74 1997**

***Cassell Companion to Theatre*. London: Cassell, 1997.**

**Ref PN 2035 .O9 1983**

***Oxford Companion to the Theatre*. Oxford: 1983.**

**PR 1906.5 .C66 2000**

***Companion to Chaucer*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2000.**

**Ref PR 4580 .O94 1999**

***Oxford Reader's Companion to Dickens.* New York: Oxford, 1999 .**

"Detailed information about his life, work and reputation." Index.

**Ref PR 2892 .C3**

***Reader's Encyclopedia of Shakespeare.* New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1966.**

**Ref PN 41 B4 1987**

***Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia.* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1987.**

Brief articles on "every allusion imaginable" encountered in world literature (references to famous historical or literary figures or events); biographies of poets, dramatists, novelists, essayists, historical figures from antiquity to the present; plot summaries of literary works; sketches of principal characters; literary terms, movements, schools and awards.

**Ref PR 19 .F7 1974**

***Dictionary of Fictional Characters,* Boston, MA: The Writer, 1974 .**

Alphabetical listing of fictitious characters from novels, short stories, poems, plays and operas by British and American authors during "the past six centuries." Each entry includes a short description of the character and the name and date of the work in which it appeared .

**Ref PN 1021 E5 1974**

***Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics.* Enlarged edition. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1974**

Contains information on poetic form and technique, theory and criticism, literary history and movements. "World-wide orientation."

***World Literature and Its Times.* Detroit: Gale. 6v.**

Each volume covers a geographic area with titles of important works arranged alphabetically. Each title entry includes a summary of the times in which the work takes place, a story synopsis, relation of the story to the author's life, influential historical events at the time the work was written and a critical overview. Titles discussed include fiction and non-fiction, short stories, plays and poems that have been translated into English. Lists of further reading.

**Ref PR 25 .M67 2001 v.3**

***British and Irish literature and its times : Celtic migrations to the Reform Bill (beginnings-1830s)***

**Ref PR 471 .M65 2001 v.4**

***British and Irish literature and its times : Victorian era to the present (1837- )***

## **LITERARY HISTORIES**

**Ref PR 83 .C224**

***Cambridge History of English Literature,* 15 v., New York: Cambridge University Press, 1932.**

The stated purpose is to give a "connected account of the movements of English literature" from its beginnings through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A writers' work and the interaction between English and foreign literatures are discussed. Indexed.

**Ref PR 83 .O94 1987**

***Oxford Illustrated History of English Literature.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1987.**

English literary history through 1980 is discussed. Further reading and a chronology of important literary dates and events are included.

**Ref PR 502 .C62 1994**

***Columbia History of British Poetry.* New York: Columbia University Press, 1994.**

This history of British poetry up to 1990 includes poetry of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland with brief biographies of the poets. Indexed.

## **OVERVIEW OF AN AUTHOR'S LIFE, CAREER AND WORK(S)**

Read about an author's life, work and the times in which an author lived.

**Ref PR 85 B688**

***British Writers. 8 v. with supplements.* New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1979-. Also available on the Online Database *Scribner Writers Series.***

Novelists, dramatists, poets and essayists from all time periods are discussed in lengthy articles which include a biographical sketch, survey of principal writings and assessment of a writer's work as a whole. Index of writers, works and ideas is in volume 8. Ongoing supplements update the set, each having a cumulative index of the set. Chronologies of important literary dates and events and bibliographies of further reading are included.

**Ref PR 19 .C64**

***Concise Dictionary of British Literary Biography.* Detroit, MI: Gale, 1992.**

Each volume is devoted to a single historical period, ending with "1960 to the present." The author's life, works and the critical response are discussed. See the bibliography of critical studies for further reading.

**Ref PR 105 K9**

***British Authors before 1800.* New York: H. W. Wilson, 1952.**

Brief biographical sketches with a list of the author's works and further reading are included.

**Ref PR 451 K8**

***British Authors of the Nineteenth Century.* New York: H.W.Wilson, 1936.**

Brief biographical sketches with a list of the author's works and further reading are included.

**Ref PN 451 .M34 1991**

***Major 20<sup>th</sup> Century Writers: a Selection of Sketches from Contemporary Authors.* Detroit: Gale, 1991.**

Most widely studied twentieth century novelists short story writers, poets and dramatists with primary focus on the United States and the United Kingdom are included. Each entry has an author biography, list of writings, overview of the author's career and critical reception and a list of further reading.

**Ref PN 771 K86**

***Twentieth Century Authors: a Biographical Dictionary of Modern Literature.* New York: H. W. Wilson, 1942. 1955 supplement.**

Lengthy articles on authors of fiction, poetry, drama, history, biography & criticism include biographical sketches, a list of principal works and a list of biographical and critical sources for further reading about the author.

**Ref PN 771 .G73**

***Great World Writers: twentieth century. 13 v.***

**New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2004.**

Includes authors living or deceased with an introduction discussing each author's significance, summary of the author's life, works and themes, and discussion of important individual works. Bibliographies, further reading and web sites listed. Special indexes: authors, titles, films made from works, literary characters, general index.

**Ref PN 771 .C66**

**Contemporary authors;** a bio-bibliographical guide to current writers in fiction, general nonfiction, poetry, journalism, drama, motion pictures, television and other fields. Vols. 1-110.

**PS 228 .P67 P67 2006**

**Popular contemporary writers. 11 v. New York : Marshall Cavendish Reference, 2006.**

Contemporary authors of fiction, nonfiction, drama and poetry, most still Cliving, are arranged alphabetically. Each entry contains an overview of the author's significance, life and works.

Volume 11 includes a list of authors by genre, winners of literary prizes and further reading.

Indexes available: writers; works; characters; film and television productions; visual arts; people, places, movements and events.

**COMPILATION OF CRITICAL RESPONSES TO AN AUTHOR'S WORK(S)**

Literary criticism is the evaluation, description or interpretation of literary work(s). Remember to consult sources for specific types of literature such as short stories or drama.

**Ref PN 771 .C5**

**Contemporary Literary Criticism (CLC), v. 1-165. Detroit, MI: Gale.**

Comprehensive surveys of an author's career and individual works include novelists, short story writers, poets, dramatists worldwide now living or died after December 31, 1959. Volumes published beginning in 2000 include authors who died after December 31, 1999. Each entry has a brief author sketch, critical excerpts of contemporary criticism in the order published with source information. Cumulative author index, cumulative topic and national index refers to CLC volumes and other Gale series'. Title index for each volume. Yearbook discusses trends, etc. Separate cumulative title index for the set.

**Ref PN 771 .G2**

**Twentieth Century Literary Criticism (TCLC), v. 1-110. Detroit, MI: Gale.**

Comprehensive surveys of an author's career or an individual work includes British novelists, short story writers, dramatists, poets who died between 1900 and 1999. Volumes published from 1978 through 1999 include authors who died between 1900 and 1960. Each entry includes a biographical sketch, excerpts of criticisms in the order published with source information. Bibliographies of further reading. Cumulative author index, cumulative topic and nationality indexes refer to CLC volumes and other Gale series'. Title index for each volume. Special topics volumes on trends, movements, etc.

**Ref PR 473 T84 1985**

**Twentieth Century British Literature. 5 v. New York: Chelsea House, 1985. Bibliographic Supplement and Index, 1987.**

Biographies, discussion of works and in depth critical essays are included. Further reading found at the end of each volume.

**Ref PN 761 .N5**

**Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism (NCLC), v. 1-150. Detroit, MI: Gale.**

Comprehensive surveys of an author's career or an individual work includes novelists, short story writers, dramatists, poets who died between 1800 and 1899. Each entry includes a biographical sketch, excerpts of criticisms in the order published with source information. Bibliographies for further reading. Cumulative author index, cumulative topic and nationality indexes refer to CLC volumes and other Gale series'. Title index for each volume. Special topics volumes on trends, movements, etc.

**Ref PR 83 M73 1959**

**Moulton's Library of Literary Criticism of English and American Authors, Gloucester, MA. Peter Smith, 1959. 8 v.**

Compilation of quoted material from criticism of an author's work as a whole and criticisms of individual works are included. Each volume covers a certain time period ending in 1904 with brief biographical sketches of American and British authors. Alphabetical table of contents. Index in the last volume.

**PR 83 C764**

***The Critical Temper: a Survey of Modern Criticism on English and American Literature from the Beginnings to the Twentieth Century.* New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing, 1969. 3 v. plus supplement.**

Scholarly opinion on major American and English writers, poets, novelists and dramatists, covering Old English to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century aims to reveal a writer in terms of his work, his life and his influence.

**Ref PN 3373 S386**

***Short Story Criticism (SSC).* Detroit, MI: Gale, 1988-**

Criticism excerpts, on short story writers of all eras and nationalities are arranged in order published, Each author entry includes biographical and critical overview of author's work as a whole, criticisms of principal works and a selected bibliography of further reading. Cumulative author and nationality index to all Gale series' found in each volume. Title index for the volume. General studies of short fiction topics in Appendix.

**Ref PN 1010 P6**

***Poetry Criticism (PC).* Detroit, MI: Gale, 1991-**

Includes poets of various nationalities and eras. Each author entry includes a biography and a critical overview of the author's work as a whole, criticisms of principal works and a selected bibliography of further reading. Cumulative author and nationality indexes to all Gale series' in each volume. Title index for the volume.

**Ref PN 1601 .D59**

***Drama Criticism (DC).* Detroit, MI: Gale, 1991-**

Critical response to dramatists of all time periods and nationalities with biographies, overviews and general studies of the dramatist's career. Chronologically arranged criticism of individual plays. Each volume has a cumulative author and nationality index to all Gale series. Cumulative title index for the set.

## **INDEXES TO WORKS FOUND IN COLLECTIONS AND ANTHOLOGIES**

**Ref Z 5917 .S5 C62**

***Short Story Index.* New York: H.W.Wilson, 1953-**

An index to stories found in collections and since 1979 also to stories in periodicals. The author entry gives the full information: story titles and author and title of the collection in which the story can be found. Authors, titles and subjects are in one alphabetical index. Use story titles and subjects to determine authors if not already known. List of the collections and periodicals indexed are found at the back of each volume.

**Ref Z 5781 P53**

***Play Index.* New York: H.W. Wilson , 1953-**

An index to single plays and plays in collections. The author entry gives the full information: play titles; descriptive note; number of acts and scenes; cast information; number of sets required; and author and title of the collection in which the play can be found. Authors, titles and subjects are found in one alphabetical index. Use title index and subject index to determine authors if not already known. Index by type of cast and list of collections indexed are found at the back of each volume.

**Ref Z 5781 O8 1988**

***Oppenheimer's index to plays in collections* : an author and title index to plays appearing in collections published between 1900 and 1985.**

**Ref PN 1022 .H39 1997**

***Columbia Granger's Index to Poetry in Anthologies.* New York: Columbia University Press, 1997.**

Three separate indexes locate poems in anthologies from all time periods and nationalities: title, first line and last line index; author index and subject index. The title, first line and last line index give the letter code for titles of anthologies in which the poem can be found. The list of anthology codes can be found at the front of the volume.

**Ref AI 3 .E752**

***Essay and General Literature Index.* New York: H. W. Wilson, 1934-**

Author and subject index in one alphabet to essays and articles published in books and serial publications with emphasis on "humanities and social sciences." Each entry contains the author and title of the essay and the title of the collection in which the essay can be found. Coverage: 1900 – current.

**PERIODICAL INDEXES**

Find citations to locate articles published in popular magazines or scholarly journals.

***Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature.* [print version] New York: H.W. Wilson.**

Found on index tables.

***Humanities Index.* [print version] New York: H.W. Wilson.** Found on index tables.

**NC LIVE** periodical indexing see **ONLINE DATABASES**



**ONLINE DATABASES VIA NCLIVE**

[www.nclive.org](http://www.nclive.org)

**NCLIVE PERIODICAL DATABASES**

Many full text periodical articles with indexing and abstracts.

***Academic Search Premier*** via EBSCOhost

Provides abstracts and indexing for over 8,000 journals, 3600+ peer reviewed, covering a wide variety of subject areas from 1984 to present. Includes many complete articles from over 4700 journals, some dating back to 1975.

**NOTE: NC LIVE Password Required Off-Campus**

The following literature periodicals are indexed and some are full text in EBSCO's **Academic Search Premier**:

***Explicator***: Full Text 1976- current, in Ebsco's **Academic Search Premier**.

***Contemporary Literature***: Indexing only 1984- current in Ebsco's **Academic Search Premier**.

***Kenyon Review***: Full Text 1979- current in Ebsco's **Academic Search Premier**.

***World Literature Today*** Full text Jan 1990- current in **Academic Search Premier**.

BRCC Library has back issues of the ***Explicator***, ***Contemporary Literature*** and ***Kenyon Review***.

## SELECTED INTERNET SOURCES

### INTERNET DIRECTORIES

Using Internet directories helps avoid the many "false hits" a standard search engine provide.

[www.ipl.org/div/litcrit](http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit)

**Internet Public Library Literary Criticism Collection** has lists of links to criticism and biographical websites that can be browsed by author, title, literary period or nationality. IPL's **Online Literary Criticism Guide** links to further sources. The Pathfinder offers help locating critical material.

[www.lii.org](http://www.lii.org)

**Librarians' Index to the Internet** NOW COMBINED WITH [www.ipl.org](http://www.ipl.org)  
Another of the best directories, **The Librarians' Index to the Internet** is a searchable, annotated subject directory of more than 7,800 Internet resources selected and evaluated by librarians who are subject authorities. Bold topics are subdirectories that will list more specific topics.

<http://bubl.ac.uk/>

**BUBL LINK** is one of the best directories of selected authoritative literary websites with links to subdirectories for more specific topics; a scholarly slant with a British emphasis.

### SOURCES OF FULL TEXT ORIGINAL WORKS

[www.netLibrary.com](http://www.netLibrary.com)

**netLibrary** via NC LIVE provides easy access to the full text of more than 24,000 reference, scholarly, and professional eBooks. **IMPORTANT: You must create a netLibrary user account from an "on campus" computer.** Afterward, you may access your netLibrary account from anywhere.

<http://collections.chadwyck.com/>

**Chadwyck Healey:** full text poetry source databases via NCLIVE  
Search by keyword, poet, gender and for the early poetry (up to 1900) by time period.

1. *English Poetry* (600-1900) via Chadwyck-Healey

Essentially an index and text of the complete English poetic canon from 600 to 1900. Over 165,000 poems by more than 1,250 poets drawn from nearly 4,500 printed sources.

**NOTE: Remote Access Not Available**

2. *Twentieth Century English Poetry* via Chadwyck-Healey

Contains tens of thousands of works by 288 poets, providing an overview of poetry written in the 20th century by both established and emerging writers.

**NOTE: Remote Access Not Available**

[www.bartleby.com](http://www.bartleby.com)

**Bartleby.com: Great Books Online via the Internet**

Bartleby.com publishes the classics of literature, nonfiction and reference free of charge for anyone with Internet access. The reference works include: *The American Heritage Dictionary*, *Roget's II: The New Thesaurus*, *American Heritage Book of English Usage*, Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations*, Strunk's *The Elements of Style*, H. L. Mencken's *The American Language*, Emily Post's *Etiquette*, and Thomas Bulfinch's *The Age of Fable*.

**NOTE: Free Internet Resource**

<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/books/>

Online Books Page via the Internet is a database of links to **public domain** eBooks.

[www.infomotions.com/alex](http://www.infomotions.com/alex)

Alex Catalogue of Electronic Texts via the Internet

Alex is a collection of public domain documents from American and English literature and Western philosophy. The Alex database is fully searchable and indexed for browsing by Author, Title, or Date. The documents may also be recreated as .pdf (Portable Document Format) files, allowing the user to control the font style and size, and some page layout options. The database contents and search tools may also be downloaded and installed on a home computer.

**NOTE: Free Internet Resource**

## **HOW TO CITE SOURCES**

The Western Carolina University library website at <http://www.wcu.edu/11665.asp> gives good examples of how to cite both print and electronic sources. Always ask your instructors if they have particular preferences.