

WORLD 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 for 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 world authors and world literature are shelved in the **P** section of the library. Don't forget to consider works in anthologies or collections and some of the general sources of literary criticism or literary biography, which will include world authors.

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 WebCat**. **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: Chekhov, Anton, or Achebe, Chinua.

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. Be aware that foreign names can be confusing. Names can have different spellings such as Chekhov, Chekov or Tchegov. A Spanish family name may include a maternal and a paternal name, thus **Garcia Marquez, Gabriel**. In Chinese, Japanese and Korean, the family name comes before the given name, the given name being hyphenated, thus **Liu Ya-tzu**.

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: Allende, Isabel

Allende, Isabel -- Criticism and Interpretation

Allende, Isabel -- Family

A **key word** search such as "hispanic **and criticism**" or "world authors" or "world literature" 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 World Authors and Modern Critical Views by Bloom*** are available. You will find such titles as *Isabel Allende* or *Goethe*, *Twayne's World Authors Series*; *Margaret Atwood* or *Anton Chekhov*, *Modern Critical Views*. Search "*Norton Critical Edition*" for a list of works with critical material included, such as *Gilgamesh* or *Faust*.

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 **Black Literature** you will find

Black Literature

USE Literature – Black Authors

Black Literature (African)

USE African Literature

Black Literature (American)

Use American Literature – African American Authors

If you look up **Latin American Poetry** you will find

BT Latin American Literature

NT Folk Poetry, Latin American

Love Poetry, Latin American

Protest Poetry, Latin American

Revolutionary Poetry, Latin American

Other types of useful subject headings are, for example,

French Literature

--To 1500

--16th century

--17th century

--18th Century

--19th century

--20th century

German Literature

-- Middle High German, 1050 - 1500

-- Early Modern, 1500 – 1700.

--History and Criticism

--Jewish Authors

Chinese Literature, etc.

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

Abbreviation key for LCSH:

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:

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION OUTLINE

CLASS P

Subclass P Philology. Linguistics

Subclass PA Greek language and literature. Latin language and literature

Subclass PB Modern languages. Celtic languages

Subclass PC Romanic languages

Subclass PD Germanic languages. Scandinavian languages

Subclass PE English language

Subclass PF West Germanic languages

Subclass PG Slavic languages. Baltic languages. Albanian language

Subclass PH Uralic languages. Basque language

Subclass PJ Oriental languages and literatures

Subclass PK Indo-Iranian languages and literatures

Subclass PL Languages and literatures of Eastern Asia, Africa, Oceania

Subclass PM Hyperborean, Indian, and artificial languages

Subclass PN Literature (General)

Subclass PQ French literature - Italian literature - Spanish literature - Portuguese literature

Subclass PT German literature - Dutch literature - Flemish literature since 1830 -Afrikaans literature -
Scandinavian literature - Old Norse literature: Old Icelandic and Old Norwegian -

Modern Icelandic literature - Faroese literature - Danish literature - Norwegian literature - Swedish literature

A more complete outline of the LCCS is available from:
Available [Online]:
<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsolcco/lcco.html> . [7 August 2000].

SOME HELPFUL BOOKS

HANDBOOKS, COMPANIONS, ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Ref PN 41 B4 1987

***Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia*. 3rd 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 PN 524 .R44 2003

***Reference Guide to World Literature*, 2 v. Detroit: MI: St. James Press, 2003.**

Novelists, poets and dramatists are arranged alphabetically in volume 1 with a biographical sketch and signed critical essay. Author's works and critical studies are listed. Important works are arranged alphabetically in volume 2 with a signed critical essay. Special lists: authors with works, works, authors listed chronologically and works listed chronologically.

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 19th and 20th 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 771 .E5 1999

***Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century*. 4 v. St. James Press, 1999.**

Entries are mostly writers, with biographical information and critical analysis of their major themes and works. Survey articles, country overviews and movements are also included. Further reading and bibliography. General index and nationality index.

***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 PQ 7081 .M625 1999 v.1

***Latin American literature and its times*.**

Ref PL 8010 .M65 2000 v.2
African literature and its times.

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-)

Ref PQ 6041 .M67 2002 v.5
Spanish and Portuguese literatures and their times

Ref PJ 307 .M67 2004 v.6
Middle Eastern literatures and their times.

PL 493 .C55 2003
***The Columbia Companion to modern East Asian literature.* Columbia Univ. Press, 2003.**

Mostow, Joshua S.
Companion to Chinese, Japanese and Korean literature.

Ref PQ 7081 .A1 E56
Concise Encyclopedia of Latin American Literature.
New York: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2000.

Survey articles on specific countries and topics. Author entries include a critical overview, brief biography, list of works and further reading. Title and general index. General bibliography.

Ref PQ 41 .H3 1969
Oxford Companion to French Literature.

PG 2951 .R68 2001
***The Routledge Companion to Russian Literature.* Routledge, 2001.**
Cornwell, Neil.

Ref PN 2035 .B74 1997
***Cassell Companion to Theatre.* London: Cassell, 1997.**

Ref PN 2035 .O9 1983
***Oxford Companion to the Theatre.* Oxford: 1983.**

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."

LITERARY HISTORIES AND SURVEYS

PJ 7510 .A43 2000

***An introduction to Arabic literature.* Cambridge Univ. Press, 2000.
Allen, Roger M. A.**

PL 8010 .K53 2004

***Literature of Africa.* Greenwood Press, 2004
Killam, G. D.**

PJ 409 .L58 2003

***Literatures of Asia : from antiquity to the present..* Prentice Hall, 2003
Barnstone, Tony.**

PT 91 .N49 2004

***A New History of German Literature.* Belknap Press of Harvard Univ. Press, 2004
Wellbery, David E.**

PQ 119 .K39 2003

***A Short History of French Literature.* Oxford, 2003.
Kay, Sarah.**

PQ 3897 .K3913 1991

***Black writers in French : a literary history of negritude*
Kesteloot, Lilyan.**

PL 726.35 .K4 1999

***World Within Walls: Japanese literature of the pre-modern era, 1600-1867.* Columbia Univ. Press, 1999.
Keene, Donald.**

PL 2442 .H8 1999

***A History of Modern Chinese Fiction*
Hsia, Chih-tsing, 1921-**

PR 9484.6 .B75 2003

***Modern South Asian literature in English*
Brians, Paul.**

PN 56 .H55 E9 1982

***By words alone : the Holocaust in literature*
Ezrahi, Sidra DeKoven.**

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 PN 451 .W3

***World Authors, 1950-1970: a companion volume to Twentieth Century Authors.*
New York : H. W. Wilson.**

Lengthy articles on authors of fiction, poetry, drama, history, biography & philosophy include a biographical sketch, a list of the author's principal works and a list of biographical and critical sources for further reading. Authors are those whose work is "familiar to readers of English" who "came to prominence between 1950 and 1970".

World Authors, 1970-1975; 1975-1980; 1980-1985; 1985-1990; 1990-1995; 1995-2000; 2000-2005.

Volumes in the Wilson Authors series.

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.

PA 3002 A5 1982

***Ancient Writers : Greece and Rome. 2 v. Scribner, 1982.*
Luce, T. James (Torrey James)**

Ref PN 451 K8

European Authors, 1000-1900. H. W. Wilson, 1967.

A biographical dictionary of European Literature.

Ref PN 501 E9

European Writers. 14 v. New York: Scribner's, 1983

Each volume covers a specific time period and includes essays on a writer's works, his life and "his situation, public and literary." The last volume includes author lists: alphabetical, chronological and by language. Extensive index and bibliography in the last volume.

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 451 .M34 1991

***Major 20th 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. Nationality index and authors' subject/genre index.

Ref PN 490 .B533

Black Writers. Detroit, MI: Gale, 1999.

Selections of sketches from *Contemporary Authors*. Arranged by author with biographical and critical overview. Includes 20th century authors, some African and Caribbean. Nationality index.

Ref PQ 7081 .A1 L37

Latin American Writers. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1989 with 2002 supplement.

Includes representative Latin American writers, i.e. those from Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries in the western hemisphere. Brief biographies of writers relating to historical and literary influences and a critical overview of the author's works. Further reading lists. Introductory discussion of Latin American literature as a whole and a chronology. Author and country index. General index.

Ref PS 153 .H56 N68

Notable Latino Writers. 3 v. Salem Press, 2006.

Latino novelists, poets and dramatists, short story writers of the Western Hemisphere.

Overview of an author's biography and literary career. Annotated bibliography at the end of each essay.

Pronunciation of each author's name with a key at beginning of each volume. Volume 3 essay section includes general overview articles such as "Latino Poetry." Appendices: More Latino authors, an extensive bibliography, list of electronic resources and author chronology. Indexes: genre, nationality, authors, titles and subjects.

Ref PQ 7081.3 .H58

Hispanic Writers

Selections of sketches from *Contemporary Authors*. Author arrangement with biographical and critical overview. Includes 20th century authors from Puerto Rico, Cuba, Mexico, Spanish speaking countries of Central, South America and Spain as well as the United States. Nationality index.

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 523 .W67

World Literature Criticism: 1500 to the present, v. 1-6 with 2 v. 1997 supplement. Detroit, MI: Gale, 1992.

Authors of novels, poems, drama and essays arranged alphabetically. Each entry includes a biographical and critical introduction, summaries of best known works and chronologically arranged critical responses. Further reading lists. Author, title and nationality indexes.

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 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 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.

Ref PS 153 .N5 B556

Black Literature Criticism. Detroit: Gale, 1992 with 1999 supplement.

Excerpts from criticism of the most significant works of black authors over the past 200 years. Includes Nigeria, South Africa, Jamaica and others, as well as the United States. Author entries include a biographical and critical introduction and excerpts of criticisms chronologically arranged. Further reading lists. Author, title and nationality index.

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

Ottemiller'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

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/

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 NOW COMBINED WITH www.ipl.org

Librarians' Internet Index

Another of the best directories, **The Librarians' Internet Index** is a searchable, annotated subject directory of more than 17,000 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

netLibrary via NC LIVE provides easy access to the full text of more than 38,000 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.

www.bartleby.com

Bartleby.com: Great Books Online via the Internet

Bartleby.com makes available the Harvard Classics of literature, nonfiction and reference books 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.

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 requirements.**