

# STARTING POINTS FOR LITERARY CRITICISM

Fall 2007

## Find Scholarly Articles (Library Search Engines/Databases)

### MLA International Bibliography

Search this database for articles, books, chapters, etc. on subjects such as literature, literary theory & criticism, and dramatic arts. (MLA = Modern Language Association)

### Gale Literary Databases

Search across 3 of Gale's literary databases to find criticism on the works of novelists, poets, playwrights, short story writers, and other creative writers, also includes author biographies.

### Academic Search Complete

Search this multi-disciplinary database for scholarly journal articles across all disciplines, including coverage of literary topics.

### ABELL

Search this database for international monographs, periodical articles, and critical editions of literary works, book reviews and collections of essays from 1920 onwards. (ABELL = Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature)

### PCI

Search this database for millions of articles from periodicals in the humanities and social sciences published between, 1770-1995. (PCI = Periodicals Contents Index)

### Art Full Text

Search this full text database for articles on theater, drama, performance, choreography, and other topics in the arts.

### Wilson Omnifile Full Text Mega

Search this multi-disciplinary full text database for scholarly journal articles from the humanities to the sciences, including literary and social criticism literature.

### Black Drama

Search this database for the full text of plays written from the mid-1800s onward by playwrights from NA, English-speaking Africa, the Caribbean, and other African diaspora countries.

### Asian American Drama

Search this database for plays, along with related biographical, production, and theatrical information, related to Asian American drama.

\*Book reviews available in some of these databases\*

## Book Reviews

### Book Review Digest Plus

Search this database for both book review citations (which include summaries of books as well as excerpts of book reviews) and full text reviews.

### New York Times Book Review

Search this full text database for selected book reviews and articles from the NY Times. See also, NY Time's Book Review webpage at:  
[www.nytimes.com/pages/books/index.html](http://www.nytimes.com/pages/books/index.html)

### Book Review Index (print source)

Search this index for reviews appearing in a wide range of popular, academic, and professional periodicals published in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia. (Evans Reference Z1035.A1 B6)

## Search Tips

### Search Tips for Literary Criticism

If you are having trouble finding articles in the above databases, here are some search terms to try (especially for the MLA database).

For more narrow results, combine these terms with other concepts such as author, book title, etc. (e.g., "feminist literary theory and criticism" and bronte):

- "literary theory and criticism", "feminist literary theory and criticism", "formalist...", "Marxist...", "Marxist-Leninist...", "postmodernist...", "postcolonial...", "poststructuralist...", "psychoanalytic...", "socialist realist...", "sociological...", "semiotic...", "structural...", etc.
- "African criticism", "European criticism", "new criticism", "treatment in criticism", "anthropological criticism", "archetypal criticism", "humanist criticism", "historical criticism", "ecocriticism", "thematic criticism", "socialist criticism", etc.

## Helpful Print Resources (Indexes, etc.)

### Critical Sourcebooks:

Print resources listed here are located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Evans in the Reference Area book stacks (call numbers follow titles).

- *American Drama Criticism: Interpretations, 1890-1977* (PS332 .E33 1979)
- *American Writers: A Collection of Literary Biographies* (PS129 .A55)
- *American Women Writers: A Critical Reference Guide from Colonial Times to Present* (PS147 .A4 2000)
- *British Writers* (PR85 .B688)
- *Critical Survey of Poetry* (PR502 .C85 1992)
- *Critical Survey of Short Fiction* (PN3321 .C7)
- *Drama Criticism* (PN1601 .D59)
- *Guide to American Poetry Explication* (PS303 .R66 1989)
- *Guide to British Poetry Explication* (PR311 .M34 1991)
- *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism* (PN761 .N56)
- *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism* (Evans Reference PN94 .T93)
- *Encyclopedia of British Women Writers* (PR111 .S34 1998)
- *Poetry Criticism* (PN1010 .P499)
- *Short Story Criticism* (PN3373 .S36)
- *Short Story Index* (PS648 .S5 S568)
- *St. James Guide to Black Artists* (N40 .S78 1997)
- *St. James Guide to Children's Writers* (PN1009.A1 T9 1999)
- *St. James Guide to Fantasy Writers* (PN3435 .S73 1996)
- *St. James Guide to Horror, Ghost & Gothic Writers* (PN3435 .S7 1998)
- *St. James Guide to Native North American Artists* (E98.A7 S8 1998)
- *St. James Guide to Science Fiction Writers* (PS374.S35 S68 1996)

## E-Resource Access

For quick access to the e-resources in this guide...



Go to [library.tamu.edu](http://library.tamu.edu)

- 1) Select the "Index/Database" or "E-Journal" Tab
- 2) Enter data base or E-Journal title in the "Search Term" box
- 3) Click "Submit"

OR

Search for Articles/Books using the Keywords listed on the left under Search Tips.

**Recommended Search Topic Quicksets:**

- § **General**
- § **Language/Literature**

(See backside for example)

Check out our *Subject and Class guide!*

<http://library.tamu.edu/subjects>  
<http://library.tamu.edu/guides>

