Southwest Virginia Community College Library

Subject Guide – Literature

**Scope:** For literature including drama, poetry, short stories, author biographies, and literary criticism.

**Call number areas to browse:**
P (Language, Literature), PN6000 (Quotations, Poetry, Drama), PR (English Literature), PS (American Literature), PZ (Juvenile Fiction)

**Keywords to search:** authors' names, title words, etc., also literature, criticism

**Subjects to search (Library of Congress):** Literature.

**Also** headings of the type in literature, e.g. Children in literature, Realism in literature;

**Also** headings for national literatures, e.g. American literature, Mexican literature

**Books in the SWCC Library Catalog** - You will find books, audio books, videos, and ebooks in a search of the SWCC Library Catalog. Some of the book series/sets include:

- Critical Survey of . . .
- Masterplots
- Dictionary of Literary Biography and other titles from Gale Research, Inc.

**Article Databases** - Here are some of the top databases to help you find articles on topics in Literature. *(Use your MYSouthwest ID to login from off campus.)*

- **Humanities International Complete** covers all aspects of the humanities, with worldwide content pertaining to literary, scholarly and creative thought. Provides full text of hundreds of journals, books and other published sources from around the world. Produced by Whitston Publishing (an imprint of EBSCO Publishing), this database includes all data from Humanities International Index (over 2,000 titles and 2 million records) plus unique full text content, much of which is not found in other databases. The database includes full text for more than 730 journals.

- **Literature Online – LION** is a fully searchable library of more than 350,000 works of English and American poetry, drama and prose, 388 full-text literature journals, and other key criticism and reference resources.

- **Literature Resource Center** provides access to biographies, bibliographies and critical analysis of authors from every literary time period and discipline. Combining information from Contemporary Authors, Contemporary Literary Criticism, Dictionary of Literary Biography, Twayne's Author Series, and Scribner Writer Series, with articles from literary journals, the Literature Resource Center covers more than 124,000 novelists, poets, essayists, journalists and other writers.

- **Artemis Literary Sources (Gale)** Gale is working to integrate Literature Resources from Gale and Literature Criticism Online into a single research environment. Unlock information in primary sources, critical articles, literary and cultural analysis, and biographies. Artemis searches Gale Virtual Reference Library, Literature Resource Center, Scribner Writers Online, and Twayne’s Authors Online.
**MLA International Bibliography** is a subject index for books, articles and websites published on modern languages, literatures, folklore, and linguistics. It is produced by the Modern Language Association (MLA), an organization dedicated to the study and teaching of language and literature. This resource contains over 2.2 million citations from more than 4,400 periodicals (including peer-reviewed e-journals) and 1,000 book publishers.

**Scribner Writers Online** offers over 2,000 original and detailed bio-critical essays on the lives and works of more than 1,400 important authors from around the world. Each cross-referenced entry includes a concise essay, a citation, and biographical information that places the author's work in personal and historical context.

**Twayne's Authors Online** series of literary criticism offers in-depth introductions to the lives and works of writers, the history and influence of literary movements, and the development of literary genres. This online series features the content of more than 600 books that comprise three print series --United States Authors, English Authors and World Authors.

**Internet Resources -**

**Gale's Literary Index** is a master index to the major literature products published by Gale. It combines and cross references more than 138,000 author names, including pseudonyms and variant names, and more than 176,000 titles into one source.

**Literary Criticism Collection** from the Internet Public Library (ipl2) contains critical and biographical websites about authors and their works that can be browsed by author, by title, or by nationality and literary period. “The collection is not inclusive of all the work on the web, nor does it plan to be. The sites are selected with some thought to their overall usefulness.”

**On-Line Books Page** (onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu) is an index of over one million online books freely readable on the Internet.

**Project Gutenberg** is the first and largest single collection of free electronic books, or eBooks. Michael Hart, founder of Project Gutenberg, invented eBooks in 1971 and continues to inspire the creation of eBooks and related technologies today.

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**Please let us know if you need help.**

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