



American Literature and Literary Analysis

a research guide: books, articles, web sites, and videos

Finding Books

- **How to Find Books in the ODU Library:**
Click on **Books** on the ODU Library homepage (<http://www.ohiodominican.edu/library>), then select **ODU Library Catalog**.
- **How to Find Books in Other OhioLINK Libraries:**
Click on **Books** from the ODU Library homepage and then select **OhioLINK Library Catalog**.
Or search in the ODU Library Catalog first, and then click on the OhioLINK button at the top of the library catalog results screen to search in the state-wide OhioLINK Library Catalog.
- **Online Guides to Help You Search:**
Guides to using the ODU Library Catalog and the OhioLINK Library Catalog are available online on the library's **Research Help** web page or in print by the library Reference Desk on the top floor of Spangler.

Reference Books—A Selection

Reference books provide a good starting point for your research. Reference items are located in the Library's Reference collection, behind the Reference Desk on the top floor of Spangler.

See also these related research guides: English Literature and Literary Analysis; Drama, Film, Theatre; Poetry; and Humanities.

Biographies and Bio-Bibliographies

For biographical sketches of the life and works of authors, as well as lists of works by subject, author, or title, consult the sources that follow.

- A to Z of American Women Writers. R 810.9928 K851a, 2000
- American Fiction, 1900-1950. R 016.813 W893a, 1974
- American National Biography. R 920.073 A512n, 1999 10 volumes
- American Women Writers, 1900-1945. R 810.9 A3593w
- American Writers: Selected Authors. R 810.9 A3594wr v.1-3
- American Women Writers: A Bio-Bibliographical Critical Sourcebook. R 810.9 A3593w, 2000
- Contemporary American Ethnic Poets: Lives, Works, Sources.
- Contemporary Women Poets. R 811 C7676w, 1998
- Latina and Latino Voices in Literature. R 016.810 D3311
- Major Writers of America. R 810.82 M649m 2 vol.
- Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers. R 810.9 N714, 1997
- The Oxford Companion to American Literature. R 810.3 H325o, 1995
- The Undergraduate's Companion to American Writers and Their Web Sites. R 106.8108 B725U
- Webster's Dictionary of American Authors. R 810.9 W399d, 1996

Criticism

- African American Literary Criticism, 1733 to 2000. R 810.9 A834a, 1999
- American Literary Scholarship: An Annual. R 016.81 A512li (1998-current year available online via the ODU Library Catalog)
- American Writers Classics. R 810.9 A3594w
- Critical Companion to John Steinbeck. R 813.52 S819c, 2005
- Drama Criticism. R 809.2 D763 10 vols.
- Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism. R 809.034 N714 10 vols.
- Short Story Criticism. R 809.31 S559 75 volumes
- Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism. R 809.04 T971t 10 vols.

Dictionaries

- A Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory. R 803 C893d, 1998
- Larousse Dictionary of Literary Characters. R 809.927, 1994
- A Multicultural Dictionary of Literary Terms. R 803 C273m, 1999
- Twentieth-Century Literary Movements Dictionary. R 809.9109 T97151, 2000

Encyclopedias and Handbooks

- American Literature: The Makers and the Making. R 810.9 B873a, 1973 2 vols.
- Asian American Literature: Reviews and Criticism of Works by American Writers of Asian Descent. R 810.9895 A832, 1999
- Columbia Literary History of the United States. R 810.9 C726li, 1988
- The Continuum Encyclopedia of American Literature. R 810.3 E193c, 2001
- Encyclopedia of American Literature. R 810.3 E193a, 2002 3 parts
- Encyclopedia of Gothic Literature. R 809.911 S52e
- Encyclopedia of Literary Modernism. R 809.911 E1951
- Encyclopedia of the Romantic Era 1760—1850. R 700.414 E197r vols. 1—2
- Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century. R 803 E198w, 1999 4 vols.
- The Facts on File Companion to the American Short Story. R 813.0108 F1198f, 2000
- Harlem Renaissance: A Gale Critical Companion. 810.9896 H2268r 3 vols.
- HarperCollins Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature. R 810.9 H234r, 2002
- Oxford Companion to African American Literature. 810.8 O98, 1997
- Oxford Companion to American Literature. R 810.3 H325o, 1995

Guides to Specific Authors

- Edith Wharton A to Z: The Essential Guide to the Life and Work. R 813.52 W953e, 1998
- Ernest Hemingway A to Z: The Essential Guide to the Life and Work. R 813.52 O484e, 1999
- A Glossary of Faulkner's South. R 813.52 F263Br, 1976
- Herman Melville A to Z. R 813.3 R659h
- Mark Twain A- Z. R 817.4 R1846m
- A William Faulkner Encyclopedia. R 813.52 W6702f

Research Guides

- Literary Research Guide: An Annotated Listing of Reference Sources in English Literary Studies. R 016.8209 H22941, 2002
- Research Guide for Undergraduate Students: English and American Literature. R 820.72 B175r
- Undergraduate's Companion to American Writers and Their Web Sites. R 016.8108 B725u

Reference Resources Online

Literary Reference Center

Provides full-text access to many reference resources online, including:

- Merriam Webster's *Encyclopedia of Literature*;
- Beacham's six-volume *Research Guide to Biography and Criticism*;
- Continuum's encyclopedia's of American, British, and children's literature;
- *The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* and *The Columbia Companion to the 20th Century American Short Story*;
- *The Oxford Illustrated History of English Literature*; *The Literary Encyclopedia*;
- *Masterplots* and *Masterplots II*; *Cyclopedia of World Authors*, *Cyclopedia of Literary Characters*, and *Magill's Literary Annual*;
- The Harold Bloom series of over 500 books; and additional resources of information on notable authors of long and short fiction, poetry, drama, and philosophy.

Masterplots Complete 2000

Full-text. On-campus access only; when prompted, click Open to access the file. Provides synopses of plays, character profiles, and brief author biographies including lists of major works.

To access: From the library homepage, click on **Articles in Databases**, then **English Language and Literature**.

Oxford Reference Online

Full-text. To access Oxford Reference Online, go to the **ODU Library Books** page. Brings together 100 dictionaries and other reference books in various subjects into one searchable database. Includes under "Literature" the following: *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*, *A Dictionary of Writers and their Works*, and *The Concise Oxford Companion to American Literature*.

To access: From the library homepage, click on **Books**, and select **Oxford Reference Online**.

- For additional possibilities, click on **Quick Reference** from the ODU Library homepage, then under the heading of **Resources by Topic**, then choose either **Dictionaries** or **Encyclopedias**.

Full-text Primary Literature Online

Unless otherwise indicated, follow these steps to access the databases below: Library homepage > Articles in Databases > English Language and Literature

African-American Poetry

Includes 3,000 full-text and fully searchable poems by African American poets of the 18th and 19th centuries. Users can trace the occurrence of a word or concept across the works of one poet or the entire database.

American Poetry

Features 40,000 poems by 200 major American from the 17th to the early 20th century. A selection of anthologies is also included.

Early American Fiction

Contains 440 works of 80 novelists and short-story writers, 1774-1850, and comprises the full texts of the first editions of American novels and short stories written before 1850 by authors of significance during their lifetimes.

20th Century African-American Poetry

Works by more than 100 African-American poets, including Audre Lorde, Langston Hughes, Rita Dove, and emerging poets are included in this database. Biographical profiles accompany each poet's work.

20th Century American Poetry

52,000 poems from collected works and individual volumes of poetry covering the works of most major twentieth-century American poets. The database includes the works of most major twentieth-century American poets, beginning with the traditionalists; continuing through the modernists, represented by such poets as Wallace Stevens; and moving on to the contemporary works of the 1990s.

Quick Reference—Primary Literature Online

Links to several online resources for primary literature, including The Complete Works of Shakespeare.

To access: Library homepage > Quick Reference > Etexts—Literature

eBooks

NetLibrary

Full-text ebook database. Search among 15,000 ebooks from multiple disciplines, including reference books, other nonfiction, and fiction Search by keyword, title, or author.

To access: From the library homepage, click on **Books**, and then select **NetLibrary**.

Finding Articles and Book Reviews

- Use an online research database to find articles in scholarly journals, general magazines, and newspapers.
- To access the databases below, click on **Articles in Databases** from the ODU Library homepage. Select the **English Language and Literature** category—or choose from the A-Z index near the top of the page.
- Database guides are available on the library's **Research Help** web page (from the library homepage, click on **Research Help**) or in print by the Library Reference Desk. If you need additional assistance, consult with a Reference Librarian.

Recommended Databases

Academic Search Premier

Contains peer-reviewed journal coverage from more than 3,400 scholarly publications. Articles and book reviews covering many academic areas of study, including arts and literature. Updated daily.

Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature

Citations only. Indexes books, articles, reviews, essays, and critical editions of literary works in English studies. British, American, and Commonwealth writing are all represented.

Arts and Humanities Citation Index (Web of Science)

Citations. Indexes articles from 1,144 of the world's leading arts and humanities journals, as well as covering select relevant items from over 6,800 major science and social science journals. Note: Not intended as a substitute for a comprehensive subject database such as *Humanities International Complete*, which comprehensively indexes journal articles, books, conference proceedings, and other documents.

Bibliography of American Literature

Citations only. Indexes 40,000 literary works of 300 American writers from the Revolution to 1930.

Contemporary Literary Criticism

Collection of critical essays on contemporary authors. Each entry contains a biographical/critical introduction, a list of principal works, and sources for further study.

Electronic Journal Center

Presents over 4300 research journals, covering numerous subject areas.

Literary Reference Center

Specifically designed for public libraries, secondary schools, junior/community colleges, and undergraduate research. Offers information on authors and their works from reference works, books, and literary journals. Includes plot summaries, synopses and work overviews; articles of literary criticism; author biographies; full text of literary journals, book reviews, classic and contemporary poems, classic and contemporary short stories, classic novels; and author interviews.

MLA International Bibliography

Citations only. Catalogs books and articles on modern languages, literatures, folklore, and linguistics. Information about the libraries that own the library resources is also included. Updated 10 times per year.

Finding Periodicals in this Library

Listed below are some education periodicals available in the ODU Library.

- American Literature: A Journal of Literary History, Criticism, and Bibliography
- American Literary Scholarship
- Biography
- Criticism
- English Journal
- Forum for Modern Language Studies
- The Intercollegiate Review
- Journal of American Studies
- Journal of Modern Literature
- The Kenyon Review
- Speculum

How Do You Find Out if a Periodical Exists in this Library?

- Use the ODU Library Catalog to search for the title of the journal or newspaper you're trying to find. Choose a TITLE search and type in the title of the journal or newspaper you desire.
- The library's journals and magazines are located:
 - (1) In print in the Periodicals section on the top floor, arranged alphabetically by title
 - (2) Back issues in print (usually prior to 1960) in the Back Issues Room on the bottom floor
 - (3) In microfilm in cabinets behind the Periodicals section

A microfilm reader/printer (with free printing!) is also available on the top floor.

For more information, see the ODU Library Microfilm/Reader page at:

<http://www.ohiodominican.edu/library/tour/microfilm/default.asp>.

- If you are looking for a specific article in a periodical, be sure to match ISSUE NUMBER and YEAR/MONTH of the article to the information listed in our library catalog to make sure we have the specific issue of the journal/magazine you need.

How Do You Find Out if the Library Has an Online Subscription to a Periodical?

Electronic Journal Finder will help you find a periodical in the library's databases. Available via the library's Articles in Databases web page.

Project MUSE also has a number of full-text journals in literary scholarship online at <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals>, which includes the following:

- American Literary History (1998-)
- American Literature Scholarship (2000-)
- The Hemingway Review (2003-)
- The Henry James Review (1995-)
- The Southern Literary Journal (2000-)
- Steinbeck Studies (2004-)

Finding Web Sites

For quick reference sites online, including online dictionaries and e-texts of literature, visit the ODU Library's **Quick Reference** web page (available from the library homepage).

Listed below are web sites that may be of particular use to you in your information search.

Recommended criteria for evaluating websites:

- Accuracy of the information
- Authority of the person or group responsible for the information
- When the information was created and last updated

Web Sites—A Selection

See also these related research guides: English Literature and Literary Analysis; Drama, Film, Theatre; Poetry; and Humanities.

American Literature

- American Literature on the Web <http://www.nagasaki-gaigo.ac.jp/ishikawa/amlit>
- The Cambridge History of English and American Literature: An Encyclopedia in Eighteen Volumes <http://www.bartleby.com/cambridge>
- English 311: American Lit II, 1820-1890 <http://www.gonzaga.edu/faculty/campbell/enl311>
- The English Server. <http://eserver.org>
- Literature: An Annotated List of Reference Web Sites <http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/alcove9/literature/literature.html>
- Nobel Prize in Literature http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/
- PAL: Perspectives in American Literature: A Research and Reference Guide <http://www.csustan.edu/english/reuben/pal/TABLE.HTML>
- The Pulitzer Prizes <http://www.pulitzer.org>
- Voice of the Shuttle: American Literature <http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2739>

Authors of American Literature

- The Edgar Allen Poe Society of Baltimore <http://www.eapoe.org/>
- Mark Twain in His Times <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/railton/index2.html>
- Transcendentalists <http://www.transcendentalists.com>
- The Walt Whitman Archive <http://www.iath.virginia.edu/whitman>
- The Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson <http://www.rwe.org/comm/>

Finding Videos

- **How to find Videos in the ODU Library:**

From the library homepage, click on **Audiovisuals & Media**, select **ODU Library Catalog**, and search the catalog:

- By **KEYWORD** and limit your search to **MATERIAL TYPE: Audiovisuals**
- By **AUTHOR** or **TITLE** if you are looking for a specific actor, director, or title.

Or from the library homepage, click on **Audiovisuals & Media**, select **List of DVDs and Videos**, and browse through the listing.

- **How to find Online Videos:**

From the library homepage, click on **Audiovisuals & Media**, select **Digital Media Center Databases**, select **DMC Databases**, then scroll down until you see **Digital Video Collection** and click on **OhioLINK Access only**. Search by keyword or browse by subject.

Videos—A Selection

All videos are located in the Library's Audiovisual (A/V) Materials collection on the top floor of Spangler.

See also these related research guides: English Literature and Literary Analysis; Drama, Film, Theatre; Poetry; and Humanities.

Analysis of American Literature

- Huckleberry Finn and the American Experience. 813.4 H882, 1965
- Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain: What does Huckleberry Finn say? 813.4 H882, 1965
- Huckleberry Finn: The Art of Huckleberry Finn. 813.4 H883, 1965

Authors of American Literature

- Alice Walker and The Color Purple. 823 C722, 1997
- Ernest Hemingway: American Writer, 1899-1961. 813.52 E712h
- Ernest Hemingway: Grace Under Pressure. 928.1 E71, 1982
- Ernest Hemingway: Wrestling with Life. 921 H448e
- F. Scott Fitzgerald: One Fine Morning. 823.5209 F1111s
- Hemingway in Cuba. 813.52 H488, 1995
- Herman Melville: American Writer, 1819-1891. 813.3 H5511m, 1993
- Intimate Portrait: Maya Angelou. 818.5409 M4675a
- James McPherson. 813.54 J27, 1989
- John Steinbeck. 813.52 J65, 1996
- Kerouac. 920.7 K39, 1995
- Kurt Vonnegut. 813.54 K96, 1989
- Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.: Deadeye Dick. 813.54 K96, 1983
- Lorraine Hansberry: The Black Experience in the Creation of Drama. 810 L876, 1976
- Maya Angelou. 818 M467, 1981
- Maya Angelou. 818 M467, 1986
- A Portrait of Maya Angelou. 811.54 P853, 1994
- Robert Frost: A First Acquaintance. 811.52 F939ro, 1988
- Rough Diamond: Ernest Hemingway, 1899-1961. 813.52 R856, 1977
- Toni Morrison. 813.54 T665, 1994
- Toni Morrison: A Conversation with Toni Morrison. 813.54 M882t, 1992
- Toni Morrison: Uncensored. 813.54 T665m, 1998
- Walt Whitman's Civil War. 818 W231, 1972
- Willa Cather's America. 813.52 W689, 1988
- William Faulkner: American Writer, 1897-1962. 813.52 W716f
- William Faulkner: Prose, Poetry, and Illustrations. 813.52 W716, 1979

Film Adaptations of American Literature

- 2001: A Space Odyssey.
791.4372 T9308o
- A & P. 813.54 A639a
- Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.
813.54 A244, 1985
- The Age of Innocence.
813 A265, 1993
- Almos' a Man. Part of the The American short story collection 812.54 A168m Vol. 8
- America's Dream.
812.54 A3596d, 1996
- The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman.
813.54 G134a, 1989
- Bartleby, The Scrivener.
813.3 B2891b
- Beloved. 813.54 B4188, 1998
- The Color Purple.
823 C722, 1997
- Daisy Miller.
813.46 D134, 1994
- Ethan Frome.
823 E84, 1993
- Eudora Welty: "The Worn Path."
813 W895p, 1999
- The Europeans.
813.46 E89, 1992
- A Farewell to Arms.
823 F222, 1980
- Gone With the Wind.
813.52 G638w, 1998, 2 parts
- The Grapes of Wrath.
813.5209 G765w, 1996
- The Great Gatsby.
823 F553gr, 1974
- The House of the Seven Gables.
813.3 H8421s, 1998
- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.
813.54 I111k, 1998
- A Jury of Her Peers.
808.82 J95, 1980
- The Last of the Mohicans.
813 L349, 1993
- A Lesson Before Dying.
813.54 G1341, 1999
- Little Women. 813.4 L7781w
- Louisa May Alcott's Little Men.
813.4 A3551, 1997
- The Miracle Worker.
812.54 M6715w, 1962
- Moby Dick. 813.3 B6639d
- My Antonia. 813.5 M9951a, 1994
- The Murders in the Rue Morgue.
813.3 M9742r
- O Pioneers! 813.4 O11, 1992
- Of Mice and Men. 813.52031m, 1993
- The Old Man and the Sea.
813.52 O441m, 1995
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.
791.4372 O584
- The Portrait of a Lady.
813.46 P853, 1991, 2 parts &
791.4372 P8532l, 1997
- Roots. 929.2 R783, 1992, 6 parts;
929.2 R783, 2002
- The Scarlet Letter.
813.3 S2861, 1979, 2 parts
- The Scarlet Letter.
813.3 S2861, 1996
- The Shining.
813.54 S5567s, 1999
- Silence of the Lambs.
791.4372 S331, 1999
- Thoreau's Walden.
813.31 T488t, 1993
- The Turn of the Screw.
813.46 J27t, 1992 &
813.46 J27t, 2002
- Uncle Tom's Cabin.
823 U54, 1988 &
813.3 U54, 1996

Genres

- The American Short Story: An Introduction to the American Short Story.
808.83 A512 1977