



**SUGGESTED REFERENCE TOOLS FOR LITERATURE
AND LITERARY CRITICISM RESEARCH AT THE MESA
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AMERICAN SHORT-FICTION CRITICISM AND SCHOLARSHIP, 1959-1977 - Contains references to journal articles and essays collected in books dealing with works published between 1959 and 1977. Listed alphabetically by author, sub-divided by title of work. **Index Table**.

AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS – 4 vols. – An alphabetically arranged set covering colonial times to the present. Each entry includes some basic biographical data, a short essay, a list of works, and a bibliography. **REF. PS 147 A4**.

AMERICAN WRITERS - 2 vols. plus supplements - Each essay "contains a brief amount of biographical material and a selected bibliography [... and] a critical analysis and evaluation of the writer's work." **REF. PS 129 A55**.

BENET'S READER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA - Authors, works, terms, "schools of thought," and "historical developments" are briefly covered in this alphabetically arranged single volume work. Notes on how to use the volume and abbreviations used are in the front. **REF. PN 41 B4**

BIOGRAPHY INDEX - A two-part index to biographical material in books and magazines: (1) An alphabetical index arranged by the last name of the subject, (2) An alphabetical index arranged by profession or occupation. Authors' works are covered as sub-headings under their names. **Index Table**.

BOOK REVIEW DIGEST - Entries in this index to book reviews are listed alphabetically by author's last name and include very short excerpts from some of the reviews. Subject and title indexes are included. **Index Table**.

BOOK REVIEW INDEX - Entries in this index to book reviews are listed alphabetically by author's last name, with an alphabetical title index in the back. Only source information is provided. **Index Table**.

CONTEMPORARY LITERARY CRITICISM (CLC) - An ongoing set containing excerpts from criticism of the works of novelists, poets and playwrights alive after 1960. Complete citations are given to the original sources. Authors and works may be in more than one volume. Each volume contains a cumulative author index to all preceding volumes. There is also a critic index and, from volume 40 onward, a cumulative title index. **REF. PN 771 C59**. There are other sets that follow the same format: **Drama for Students (REF. PN 1601 D595)**; **Gay & Lesbian Literature (REF. PN 56 H57 G36)**; **Hispanic Literature Criticism (REF. PQ 7081 A1 H573)**; **Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism (REF. PN 761 N56)**; **Poetry Criticism (REF. PN 1010 P499)**; **Shakespeare for Students (REF. PR 2987 S47)**; **Short Story Criticism (REF. PN 3373 S386)**; **Twentieth Century Literary Criticism**, which covers 1900-1960 (**REF. PN 771 G27**); and **World Literature Criticism (REF. PN 523 W67)**.

CONTEMPORARY NOVELISTS - Information provided on living authors includes biographical data, addresses, a list of published works, a scholarly essay, additional information sources, and a comment by the writer, if (s)he chose to make one. Nationality and title indexes and notes on the advisors and contributors complete the volume. **REF. PR 881 C69**. Also in this series are **Contemporary Dramatists (REF. PR 603 C6)** and **Contemporary Poets (REF. PR 603 C6)**.

CYCLOPEDIA OF LITERARY CHARACTERS – 5 vols. - Provides information on major and minor characters in some 3300 works, arranged alphabetically by their titles. Title, author, and character indexes are provided at the end of volume 5. **REF. PN 44 M3**.

DICTIONARY OF LITERARY BIOGRAPHY – We have a number of volumes from this series shelved in various areas of the P area of the Reference section. Chicano writers, twentieth-century American dramatists, and American poets and short story writers since WWII are among the topics covered. **Consult Sandy Pac for call numbers.**

DRAMATIC CRITICISM INDEX - Contains references to journal articles and essays collected in books dealing with modern playwrights (Ibsen to the present). Listed alphabetically by author, sub-divided by title of work. **Index Table.**

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION – Authors, artists, specific works, sub-genres, graphic novels, horror, TV, film, concepts, themes, terms, and more are covered in detailed alphabetically arranged articles, cross-referenced where necessary. **REF. PN 3433.4 E53**

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF GOTHIC LITERATURE – Origins of the movement, authors, specific works, poetry, concepts, themes, terms, and more are covered in alphabetically arranged articles, cross-referenced where needed and supplemented by short article bibliographies, a list of major works, a time line, bibliographies of primary and secondary sources, and an index. **REF. PN 3435 S58**

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HOLOCAUST LITERATURE – Articles are arranged alphabetically by author and include biographical information, discussion of the author's important works, and "further reading" lists. Appendices, bibliographies of "primary works" and "critical studies" of holocaust literature, and an index complete the volume. **REF. PN 56 H55 E53**

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LITERATURE & POLITICS: CENSORSHIP, REVOLUTION, & WRITING – 3 vols. – Alphabetical entries cover the ancient Greeks to the present, with an emphasis on the modern world and works written in English, supplemented by article bibliographies. Includes authors, critics, theorists, historical figures, major works, national literatures, important movements, themes, concepts, and genres. A longer bibliography and index are at the end of vol. 3. **REF. PN 51 E63**

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WORLD LITERATURE IN THE 20TH CENTURY - 4 vols. plus supplement – Contains biographical/ critical articles and material on national literatures and literary movements are supplemented by bibliographies at the end of the articles. Volume 5 contains an index to the entire set. **REF. PN 774 L433**

ESSAY AND GENERAL LITERATURE INDEX (EGLI) - An author and subject index to collections of essays that allows you to see the "contents" of the collections. This reference tool may be used in all subject areas. Many of the books indexed are available in this library. Consult the Sandy Pac computers. **Index Table.**

FACTS ON FILE COMPANION TO THE AMERICAN NOVEL – 3 vols. – Article bibliographies, lists of works (for authors), and appendices and an index at the end of vol. 3 supplement the alphabetically arranged articles. Author biographies, novel synopses, and "extended essays on major subjects" are included. **REF. PS 371 F33**

GAY & LESBIAN LITERATURE - Alphabetically arranged articles on international novelists, poets, short story writers, dramatists, journalists, editors, and non-fiction authors include background information, works, sources of criticism, and a critical essay. General, nationality, gender, and subject and genre indexes as well as lists of gay and lesbian literary award winners and additional critical material are at the end of the volume. **REF. PN 56 H57 G36**

GREAT WRITERS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - Biographical information, lists of works, a short critical essay, and bibliographic material are provided for English-language writers from the earliest times. Notes on the advisors and contributors complete each volume. The set consists of **Dramatists (REF. PR 625 D7)**, **Novelists (REF. PR 751 N65)**, and **Poets (REF. PR 502 P65)**.

HANDBOOK TO LITERATURE - Alphabetically arranged definitions of literary terms include explanations and examples. A chronology of the most important events in English-speaking literature and an index of proper names complete the volume. **REF. PN 41 H6**

HUMANITIES INDEX (1974-2003) - An author and subject listing of articles in periodicals covering such subjects as archaeology, folklore, history, performing arts, philosophy, literary criticism, and religion. Has a separate book review section at the back. **Index Table**.

LITERATURE RESOURCE CENTER – An **online** resource covering literary criticism, plot summaries, author biographies, and more. Go to the **Library’s web site** and click on “**Article & Research Databases.**”

MASTERPLOTS - Provides basic plot outlines and thematic information on novels, short stories, plays, poetry, etc. along with some basic literary criticism. **REF. PN 44 M33**. **Masterplots II** has the same format as Masterplots and is available in the following individual series: **African American Literature (REF. PS 153 N5 M2645)**, **American Fiction (REF. PN 846 M37)**, **British and Commonwealth Fiction (REF. PR 881 M39)**, **Drama (REF. PN 6112.5 M37)**, **Poetry (REF. PN 1110.5 M37)**, **Short Stories (REF. PN 3326 M27)**, and **World Fiction (REF. PN 3326 M28)**.

MERRIAM WEBSTER’S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LITERATURE - Authors, works, characters, landmarks, terms, movements, and prizes are among the areas covered by this alphabetically arranged one-volume work. Pronunciations and etymologies are provided where needed. A guide to pronunciation, explanatory notes, and pronunciation symbols are provided at the front. **REF. PN 41 M42**

MODERN DRAMA: A CHECKLIST OF CRITICAL LITERATURE ON 20TH CENTURY PLAYS - A compilation of journal articles and essays in collections dealing with 20th century plays, arranged alphabetically by the name of the playwright. **Index Table**.

OXFORD COMPANION TO AMERICAN LITERATURE - Individual authors and works, literary schools and movements, awards, societies, organizations, anthologies, newspapers and magazines, collectors, and printers are among the topics covered in this alphabetically arranged single volume. A chronological index is at the end. **Ref. PS 21 H3**. Similar volumes, **The Oxford Companion to African American Literature (REF. PS 153 N5 O96)**, **The Oxford Companion to Women’s Writing in the United States (REF. PS 147 O94)**, **The Oxford Companion to Shakespeare (REF. PR 2892 O94)**, and **The Oxford Companion to Children’s Literature (REF. PN 1008.5 C37)** are also available.

OXFORD DICTIONARY OF PLAYS – Provides information on the “1000 most significant, best-known, and most popular plays in the history of theatre over the last 2500 years.” Includes author, any alternate titles, when first performed, number and types of roles, setting, and a short plot synopsis. Indexes of characters and playwrights are at the end. **REF. PN 1625 P38**

SHAKESPEARE’S WORLD AND WORK – 3 vols. – Time lines, sidebars, definitions of terms, cross-references, and b&w and color illustrations supplement the alphabetically arranged articles covering Shakespeare’s life, works, contemporaries, characters, and more. A bibliography and an index are at the end of volume 3. **REF. PR 2892 S56**. Other works on Shakespeare include **Who’s Who in Shakespeare (REF. PR 2989 Q4)**, **Longman Guide to Shakespeare’s Characters : A Who’s Who of Shakespeare (REF. PR 2989 M35)**, **Shakespeare (REF. PR 2894 S38)**, **Shakespeare A to Z: The Essential Reference to His Plays, His Poems, His Life and Times, and More (REF. PR2892 .B69)**, and **Shakespeare’s Words : A Glossary and Language Companion (REF. PR2892 .C78)**.

TWENTIETH-CENTURY CHILDREN’S WRITERS – Information about the lives and works of important children’s authors, including basic data, lists of works, quotations, and commentary. Includes a short separate section on foreign-language writers and a title index. **REF. PN 1009 A1 T9**

TWENTIETH-CENTURY SHORT STORY EXPLICATION - A multi-volume set containing references to journal articles and essays collected in books dealing with works published since 1800. Listed alphabetically by author, sub-divided by title of work. Other sets arranged the same way are: **English Novel Explication**, which covers 1958-1972; **Guide to American Poetry Explication**, which covers 1925-1987; and **Poetry Explication**, which covers 1925-1977; All are on the **Index Table**.

ULTIMATE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FANTASY – Color photos enhance short articles within sections on the origins of fantasy, story-types and themes, movies, TV, a “who’s who” of authors and important people from other media, an “A-Z of fantasy characters,” fantasy games, and worlds/universes. A glossary and an index are at the back. **REF. PN 3435 U45**

WHO’S WHO IN CHILDREN’S BOOKS – Short articles on important characters in children’s literature are enhanced by b&w and color illustrations. Author and title indexes complete the volume. **REF. PN 1009 A1 F575**

WORLD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF COMICS - Alphabetically arranged articles on comic authors and artists, landmark strips, and characters are supplemented by b&w and color illustrations; a world chronology of comic art; an analytical summary of comics around the world; several survey articles; a glossary of comic strip terms; appendices on award winners, syndicates, etc.; and proper name, title, media, contributors, geographical, illustration, and subject indexes. **REF. PN 6710 W6**

WORLD AUTHORS – An ongoing set in which each volume covers “novelists, dramatists, essayists, social scientists, biographers, and other authors who have published significant work within the period indicated.” Articles are supplemented by b&w author photos and short bibliographies. Volumes cover **1950-1970 (REF. PN 451 .W34)**, **1970-1975 (REF. PN 451 W67)**, **1975-1980 & 1980-1985 (both REF. PN 451 W672)**, **1985-1990 (REF. PN 451 W673)**, **1990-1995 (REF. PN 451 W674)**, and **1995-2000 (REF. PN 451 W676)**.

WORLD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF COMICS – B&w and color examples supplement alphabetically arranged articles on specific comics, comic artists and writers, characters, and more. Essays on specific aspects of comics history, a glossary, a bibliography, and multiple indexes complete the volume. **REF. PN 6710 W6**

WORLD POETS – 3 vols. – Alphabetically arranged articles include discussion of the poet’s life and works along with a selected bibliography of the works and a list of books about the poet. They are supplemented by b&w photos and a complete table of contents at the front of each volume. At the back of volume three are a set of thematic essays on such subjects as Tudor and Elizabethan poetry, Native American poetry, and Spanish American poetry; lists of major prizewinners, and an index. **REF. PN 1021 W67**

There are many more materials available in this library that would be useful for this topic, including material on literature of particular countries, authors, cultures, forms, and genres. Biographical resources and materials on Black and Chicano literature are listed on their own handouts. Additional book reviews may be found in the READERS’ GUIDE TO PERIODICAL LITERATURE; the specialized paper indexes; the online full-text PROQUEST and EBSCOHOST, and newspapers such as THE NEW YORK TIMES, the LOS ANGELES TIMES, and the SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE.

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