

Research Guide For Literature

About Books

Often the first place to start your research is to use specialized reference books. They provide an overview of your subject and often help focus on specific areas for research. These may be found by checking the catalog. You can do this from the library's home page.

Click on [Search the Library Catalog](#).

You can search by **Author**, **Title**, **Subject**, **Keyword**, etc.

When you select an item, you have information to initially **evaluate** this source by considering the currency of the material. To find additional information about **Evaluating Sources** see the other side of this page.

Some books of special interest for literature research are listed below:

Reference Books:

Contemporary Literary Criticism	REF PN771 .C59
American Writers	REF PS129 .A55
Poetry Criticism	REF PN1010 .P62
Short Story Criticism	REF PN3321 .S5
British Writers	REF PR85 .B688

In addition to the books in the reference collection, the library has many circulating books and media resources useful to literature students.

To locate the material:

1. **Check the location:** (see example below)
 - a) Essex Reference means the book does not go out. These are shelved on the first floor.
 - b) Essex Stacks means that the book can go out. These are shelved on the second floor.
 - c) New Books and B&T Books can go out. These are shelved on the first floor.
2. **Check the Status:** Check shelves means the book is not checked out, this area will also show any special shelving areas i.e. New Books, Reserves, On Display.
3. **Check the Call #:** This is the number by which the book is arranged on the shelf.

Essex Ref	REF PN3426.W652664 1994	Check Shelves
Essex Stacks	PR 6023 .E833T56 2005	Check Shelves

<p style="text-align: center;">Diagram of the 2nd floor: Essex Stacks</p> <p>Check the Call #. This is the number by which the book is arranged on the shelf.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The CCBC Libraries use the Library of Congress Classification System to arrange and shelf books.</p> <p>They are arranged first alphabetically, so in the example, go to PR, as if you were looking up a name in a directory, then go numerically to 6023. Continue in this order through the rest of the call number.</p>	
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About Articles

Our listing of **magazines and journals**, both in print form and in electronic format can be found from the library's home page at **Locate print & E-journals** or by asking at the reference desk.

To access specific articles, use the many **databases** available from the library's home page. These serve both as an index to articles and a source to obtain many full texts of these resources.

Examples of Databases particularly useful for literature research:

Literature Resource Center-- Gale	<i>Literature Resource Center</i> provides access to biographies, bibliographies, and critical analyses of authors from every age and literary discipline. Combining Gale Group's core literary databases in a single online service, the <i>Literature Resource Center</i> covers more than 120,000 novelists, poets, essayists, journalists, and other writers, with in-depth coverage of 2,500 of the most-studied authors.
Literature Online --LION	<i>Literature Online</i> , a fully searchable library of more than 350,000 works of English and American poetry, drama and prose, 180 full-text literature journals, and other key criticism and reference resources
Humanities International -- Ebscohost	A comprehensive database of humanities content, providing full text of hundreds of journals and other published sources from around the world.

Don't neglect to **evaluate your sources**. To find information about **Evaluating Sources see the bottom of this page.**

Searching the Internet

From the CCBC home page – select Search the Web. **Google is a good search engine to use because it has some special features such as Google Scholar**

Don't neglect to **evaluate** these sources. To find information about **Evaluating Sources see the bottom of this page.**

Some useful Websites for literature research:

Internet Public Library [http://www.ii.org]	Contains critical and biographical websites about authors and their works that can be browsed by author, title, nationality, and literary period.
BUBL Link: Catalogue of selected Internet resources in Literature and Rhetoric [http://bubl.ac.uk/link/linkbrowse.cfm?menuid=10942]	This site includes a nice set of links to general literature resources and also foreign language literature, women writers, poetry, etc..

Please Note

The CCBC Library Home page also offers valuable links to information related to completing a successful research paper. They can be found by **Clicking on Class Related Help**

Plagiarism	Evaluating Sources	Citation Guides
Searching Guides	Writing Help	Off Campus Access