

## LITERARY CRITICISM RESOURCES

*The purpose of this handout is to aid you in locating literary criticism (materials that analyze and criticize an author's work). It is by no means comprehensive. Please ask the librarian for assistance.*



### **VOYAGER: The Library's Online Catalog**

The online catalog, accessible through computers located at the LAC and PCC Libraries, identifies books, periodicals, and audio-visual resources available at both campuses. You may search the online catalog by author, title, subject, keyword, or call number.

Use the **KEYWORD** search to find items by words from the title, subject or author. If you are looking for criticism and bibliographical references on author's work, try a Keyword search as shown in the examples below: **Tip:** In a Keyword search, the question mark ? placed after the root word will find all endings of that root. **Example:** **+critic?** will also find: critics, critical, criticism and all endings that may occur as part of the root word.

+maya +angelou +critic? (will retrieve books containing the words maya, angelou and all words formed from the root word *critic*)

+great +gatsby +biblio? (will retrieve books containing the words great, gatsby and all words formed from the root word *biblio*)

+fantasy +literature +crit? (will retrieve critical works on the broad topic of fantasy literature)

**Suggestion\*** To obtain the largest number of results, try two separate searches on your subject using both crit? and biblio? as shown in the examples above.

A **SUBJECT HEADING** search is also useful in locating critical works. Begin by entering the name of the author with the last name first. No commas are necessary. Scan the entries to locate subject headings providing critical studies.

James, Henry, 1843-1916 Criticism and Interpretation

Dickens, Charles, 1812 - 1870 Great Expectations (will find criticism on a specific work or title)

Shakespeare, William, 1564 – 1616 Comedies.

### **SELECTED INTERNET SITES**

Sparknotes from Barnes and Noble – <http://www.sparknotes.com/> (contains study guides)

Online Literary Criticism Collection -- <http://www.ipl.org/ref/litcrit/>

Australia's OzLit@Vicnet -- <http://avoca.vicnet.net.au/~ozlit/>

Literary Resources on the Net – <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/>

Bartleby.com – <http://www.bartleby.com>

### **SELECTED SUBJECT-RELATED DICTIONARIES AND ENCYCLOPEDIAS**

*Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature* - Ref PS 21 B46 (**LAC and PCC**)

*Literary Terms: a Dictionary* - Ref PN 44.5 B334

*The Oxford Companion to English Literature* - Ref PR 19 O94

## SELECTED REFERENCE BOOKS

The following reference books are useful for finding biographical information, as well as criticism of authors' works. Unless otherwise indicated, the books are located in the **LAC Library Reference Room**.

### GENERAL

*American Writers* - PS 129 .A55  
*American Writers in Paris, 1920-39* - PS 129 .A57 1980  
*Contemporary Authors* - BIOGRAPHY Ref Z 1224 C6\*  
*Contemporary Authors, New Revision Series* - BIOGRAPHY Ref Z 1224 C58 \*  
*Contemporary Literary Criticism* – PN 771 .C59 \*  
*Dictionary of Literary Biography* - (**search the online catalog by this title for call number**) \*  
*Feminist Writers* – PN 451 .F46 1996  
*Gay and Lesbian Literary Heritage* – PN 56 H57 G365  
*Magill's Bibliography of Literary Criticism* - PN 523 .B53 1979  
*Masterplots II. African American Literature Series* – PS 153 .N5 M2645 1994  
*Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism* – PN 771 .G27 \*

### DRAMA

*American Drama Criticism* – PS 332 .E53 1979  
*Drama for Students* – PN 1701 D73\*  
*Dramatic Criticism* – Z 5781 .D73\*

### NOVELS & SHORT STORIES

*Contemporary Novel* – PR 883 C64  
*1,300 Critical Evaluations of Selected Novels & Plays* – PN 44 M335 1978  
*Critical Survey of Short Fiction* – PN 3321 .C7 1993 (**and PCC Reference Z 5916 A4 .M34**)  
*Critical Survey of Long Fiction* – PN 3451 .C75 2000  
*English Novel Explication* – PR 821 .E54  
*Masterplots II. American Fiction Series* – PS 373 .M37 (**and PCC Reference: Z 5916 A4 M37**)  
*Masterplots II. Short Stories Series* – PN 3326 .M27 1986 (**and PCC Reference: PN 3326 M27**)  
*Novels for Students* – PN 3365 .N68 \*  
*Short Stories for Students* – PN 3373 S56 \*  
*Short Story Criticism* – PN 3373 .S386\*  
*Short Story Index* - Z 5817 S5 S56  
*Twentieth-Century Short Story Explication* - Z 5917 .S5 W33  
*Twentieth-Century Short Story Explication: New Series* - PN 3373 .W35

### POETRY

*Critical Survey of Poetry* – Z 7155 C72 (**and PCC Reference: Z 7155 C7**)  
*Guide to American Poetry Explication* – PS 201 .G85 1989  
*Guide to British Poetry Explication* – PR 311 .G84  
*Masterplots II. Poetry Series* – PN 1110.5 M37 2002  
*Poetry Criticism* – PN 1010 .P62\*  
*Poetry Explication* – PR 502 K86 1980  
*Poetry for Students* – PN 1101 .P64 \*

**\* Selected entries from these titles may be searched on the Gale Literature Resource Center available through the Library Web site – Online Databases.**