Literary criticism is usually available for writings by authors with established literary reputations. Criticism may also be found on literature which is classified in particular ways, such as according to literary genre (e.g., poetry, short stories), time period (e.g., the Renaissance, 20th century), national origin (American, Japanese), subject matter (e.g., nature, industrialization), or theoretical approach (e.g., gender studies, reader response theory).

When one is searching for criticism on a particular author or literary work, there may be an abundance of criticism available, while for lesser known writers and works little may be published. If you have difficulty finding criticism on an author or work, you may wish to look for general criticism on the author's works and then to apply relevant information to the literary work you are studying.

You may also wish to consult book reviews, which are often available for recent publications (though their analysis is usually less in-depth than that in journal articles). Please see the STUDY GUIDE #8 FINDING BOOK REVIEWS for more detailed information on locating book reviews.

To find information on a specific topic, it is generally best to begin with ELECTRONIC DATABASES, which often provide full text critical articles.

Next, depending on your search needs and results, it may be useful to search the Library's ONLINE CATALOG for books on your given topic.

For general reference information on topics such as a literary time period or literary genre, it may also be worthwhile to consult the Library's reference collection.

PRINT INDEXES may prove helpful if you are seeking older scholarly publications that may not be listed in online sources. Print indexes include publication citations.

More detailed information on each of the above listed resource types is provided in this guide in the following order:

- ELECTRONIC DATABASES (Find articles and essays)
- ONLINE CATALOG (Find books and print journals)
- INTERNET RESOURCES (Subject guides and websites)
- PRINT INDEXES (Find article citations)
- CONTACT A LIBRARIAN

ELECTRONIC DATABASES (Find articles and essays)

Electronic databases provide access to scholarly articles and publications. Often the full text of a record is
available through the database. In other cases the article can be located in print journals or ordered through Interlibrary Loan (see http://departments.kings.edu/library/einterr.htm).

Accessing databases: To locate online databases, go to the Library’s homepage, click on “Find Articles & Database” (http://departments.kings.edu/library/findarticles.htm), and then on “A-Z Databases” (http://departments.kings.edu/library/findarticles.htm), where you may choose the desired database. If using an electronic version of this Study Guide, you may also click on the hyperlinked texts below to access each database.

Off-campus access: If you are off campus, you will be prompted to enter your user ID and password before gaining access to a database.

Relevant databases:

MLA International Bibliography
The primary electronic index for language, literature, and folklore from the Modern Language Association.

Project Muse
Full text articles from scholarly journals in the humanities, arts and social sciences.

Literature Resource Center (Gale)
Full text scholarly articles, book reviews, biographical essays, full texts of poems and short stories published in journals and magazines, overview essays on specific literary works and literature topics, and links to selected websites on authors and their works.

Academic Search Premier
Full text journal articles for all academic fields.

Oxford Reference Online
Full text reference works in humanities, social sciences, business, and science.

LexisNexis Academic
Full text newspapers, magazines, business, and legal resources, as well as reference information. Most useful for locating book reviews and literary essays published in popular magazines and newspapers.

ONLINE CATALOG
(Find Books and Print Journals)

While electronic databases are usually a good place to begin your research, locating books on a specific topic may in many cases prove useful. To find books go to the King’s College Library online catalog. From the Library homepage click on “Find Books & Media, or go directly to http://ipac.kings.edu/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=kc.

The following subsections provide information and directions on specific types of book searches:
Search for criticism on a particular author:
When looking for criticism on a specific writer it may be most effective to narrow your book search as follows:

- From the Basic Search page, click on the arrow next to the drop-down menu.
- Select Exact Subject Browse.
- Enter the author’s name, last name first (e.g., O’Connor, Flannery)
- The author’s name may appear with many subdivisions (subject headings) after it. Several of the subdivisions may be helpful, but look particularly for “Criticism and interpretation,” and click on it. You will access the records for all the books available in King’s College Library dealing with critical analysis of the works of the given author.

Search by General Keyword:
To find information in books that cover a broader range of topics, you may wish to begin with a broader keyword search. Follow these steps:

- From the Basic Search page enter keywords that are relevant to your topic (e.g., “Harlem Renaissance AND literature”).
  (Note: By default the catalog searches by General Keyword.)

Keyword searches will yield more results than do searches narrowed to a specific field (e.g., “Title,” “Author”). If your search terms are very general, you will likely need to narrow your search further. To narrow a search, use the “Sort by” or “Limit by” options in the upper right-hand corner of the Results pages, or conduct an “Advanced” or “Power” search in the catalog. (“Advanced” and “Power” search options are available in the green horizontal bar located towards the top of the page.)

Search by Exact Subject Browse:
In contrast to a keyword search, a search using “Exact Subject Browse” will retrieve fewer, but perhaps more relevant, results. “Exact Subject Browse” finds records associated with a specific subject heading. A subject heading is a name used to organize records that belong to a given subject category (e.g., American Literature -- History and Criticism).

Follow these steps:

- From the Basic Search page, click on the arrow next to the drop-down menu.
- Select Exact Subject Browse.
- Enter the relevant keywords for your search (e.g., “American literature”). Or if you know the name of a specific subject heading enter it.
• If you are using keywords rather than a subject heading, topics containing your keywords may appear with many subject headings after them. View the search results and choose a specific subdivision that is most relevant to your information need.

Some relevant subject headings include:

- American Literature -- History and Criticism
- American Drama -- History and Criticism
- English Fiction -- 20th Century -- History and Criticism

If you are unable to locate the information you need, please consult a Reference Librarian.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Internet Public Library Special Collections: Literary Criticism
http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/
Provides links to critical and biographical websites about authors and their works. Browse by author, title, national literature, or literary period.

 Literary Resources on the Net
http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/
Contains collections of website links relevant to English and American literature. Browse by categories including time period, genre, and critical approaches. (Maintained by English Professor Jack Lynch of Rutgers University.)

The Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/
Includes detailed information on citation styles and citation practices, writing, research, grammar, and more. An excellent resource when writing papers. (Created and maintained by Purdue University’s Writing Lab.)

Voice of the Shuttle
http://vos.ucsb.edu/index.asp
Includes links and citations to primary and secondary resources for the humanities, including literature. Search the entire site, or browse by choosing one of the following “Contents” menu links: “Literature (in English),” “Literatures (Other than English),” or “Literary Theory.”

PRINT INDEXES
(Find Article Citations)

Print indexes contain citations for articles on specific topics, and can be especially useful when looking for older publications that may not be available in online databases. Print indexes and abstracts are located in the Library’s Reference Department, on the 1st floor. Several of the most prominent literature print indexes are listed below.

Essay and General Literature Index, 1900-1994.
Location: REF A&I
Contains a large amount of analytical material for biography and criticisms of individual books. Gives a list of essays by a given author as well as essays about the author and the author’s works.

**Humanities Index.** 1974-1996.
Location: REF A&I
Indexes articles about literature. Includes a separate section for book reviews.

(Publications after 1991 available through the electronic version.)
The primary index for language, literature, and folklore. Published by the Modern Language Association.

**CONTACT A LIBRARIAN**

This guide is intended as a point of reference as you conduct literary research. For additional assistance or questions please contact one of the reference librarians at the King’s Library. We are available at the Library’s reference desk (1st floor), via phone, and via email. There is also general library help available 24/7 at Ask Here Pennsylvania

**King’s Library Reference Desk Hours:**
M-W 9am-9pm
Th-F 9am-5pm

**Reference Desk Phone:**
570-208-5900 x5614

**Email:**
Janet Ruddy: janetruddy@kings.edu
Marianne Sodoski: mariannesodoski@kings.edu
Andrea Baer: andreabaer@kings.edu

**24/7 Online Chat (Ask Here Pennsylvania):**
http://www.questionpoint.org/crs/servlet/org.oclc.home.TFSRedirect?virtcategory=12221