

Literary Criticism

This pathfinder is not intended to be an exhaustive search of all the resources on the subject of agriculture located in the Florida A&M University library system. The pathfinder is intended to be a cursory guide, or a starting point for a student's academic research on the topic of interest

What is literary criticism? How do I find it?

Literary Criticism” is the informed analysis and evaluation of literature”. (dictionary) ”It applies, as a term, to any argumentation about literature, whether or not specific works are analyzed. Plato's cautions against the risky consequences of poetic inspiration in general in his *Republic* are thus often taken as the earliest important example of literary criticism.”

Thus, especially in academic studies, “criticism” is often considered to be separate from “scholarship.” In practice, however, this distinction often proves artificial, and even the most single-minded concentration on a text may be informed by outside knowledge, while many notable works of criticism combine discussion of texts with broad arguments about the nature of literature and the principles of assessing it.”

The University Libraries have a wide variety of sources related to the subject of literary criticism. The sources may be located in magazines, books, web sites, databases, either online or in print. For further information, please ask the librarian for assistance at AskALibrarian.

Terms and Concepts

Need information about an author, a definition of literary criticism, or an introduction to the subject of literary criticism?

- [African-American Biographical Database](#)
Brings together in one resource the biographies of thousands of African Americans, many not to be found in any other reference source. Contains extended narratives of African American activists, business people, former slaves, performing artists, educators, lawyers, physicians, writers, church leaders, homemakers, religious workers, government workers, athletes, farmers, scientists, factory workers, and more--both the famous and the everyday person. Their stories are pivotal to an understanding of the Black American experience over the last two centuries.
- [Biography and Genealogy Master Index](#)
The Biography and Genealogy Master Index is a comprehensive index to more than 11 million biographical sketches in over 3000 volumes and editions of current and retrospective reference books, covering both contemporary and historical figures throughout the world. Biography Index.

- **Biography Index**
A bibliographic database that cites biographical material appearing in periodicals indexed in other Wilson Company databases and additional selected periodicals, current books of individual and collective biography, and incidental biographical material in otherwise non-biographical books. Periodicals indexed are selected from all subject areas represented by other Wilson Company databases. Biographical subjects indexed range from antiquity to the present and represent all fields and nationalities.

Biography Resource Center + The Complete Marquis Who's Who

- A comprehensive database of biographical information on more than one million people from throughout history, around the world, and across all disciplines and subject areas. It combines approximately 250,000 biographies from respected Gale Group sources with nearly one million biographies from The Complete Marquis Who's Who. The database also includes full-text articles from nearly 250 periodicals. Search for people based on one or more personal facts such as birth and death years and places, nationality, ethnicity, occupation gender, or combine criteria to create a highly targeted custom search path.

- **Britannica Online**

Consists of a fully searchable and brows able collection of authoritative references, including Britannica's latest article database, hundreds of articles not found in the print Britannica, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Tenth Edition), the Britannica Book of the Year, and thousands of links to other World Wide Web sites selected by Britannica editors.

- Gale Research Company. Contemporary Authors Autobiography Series. [Coleman – Reference Z1224.C6]

- **Literature Resource Center**

Includes Contemporary Authors, Dictionary of Literary Biography, and Contemporary Literary Criticism Select Provides access to biographies, bibliographies and critical analysis of authors from every age and literary discipline. Combining Gale's most used literary databases in a single Internet searchable service; the LRC covers more than 90,000 novelists, poets, essayists, journalists and other writers, with in-depth coverage of 2,000 of the most-studied authors. Search by Author Name, Title, Genre, Literary Movement or Literary or combine criteria to create a highly targeted custom search path.

- **MLA Directory of Periodicals**

The MLA Directory of Periodicals: A Guide to Journals and Series in Languages and Literatures contains entries on 4,400 of the most frequently cited MLA Bibliography journals. A companion volume to the MLA International Bibliography, the MLA Directory of Periodicals assists scholars with placing their intellectual work by providing the following types of information in its entries: 1) Name of journals or series, 2) Contact information (street address, phone, etc.),

and 3) Editorial Details (years first published ISSN frequency of publication, languages accepted, electronic availability, subscription information, etc.)

Finding Books

Looking for a book about literary criticism?

The University Libraries printed book collection is organized by subject according to the Library of Congress cataloging subject headings. The book's assigned subject, title, or author can be used to search the online catalog. An author's name has to be entered into the online catalog in reverse order, with a comma between the two names. A search for the author John Smith would be entered into the catalog as Smith, John. If a book title begins with a preposition, the title would be searched in the library catalog beginning with the second word of the book title. A search for the book title The Grapes of Wrath, would be entered in the library computer as Grapes of Wrath. The subject search can be used to search subject headings for books on agriculture. Some useful subject headings related to literary criticism are:

- Literary Criticism
- Feminist Literary Criticism
- Feminism and Literature
- For a complete official Library of Congress list of subject headings use this link:
- http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsolcco/lcco_p.pdf

A keyword search can be used to search for books. It differs from a subject search; the keyword search is more general in nature. A keyword search causes the catalog to produce whatever catalog records in which the search word appears, as opposed to a subject search that produces catalog records that only relate to the search term as a subject. Books are located using Library of Congress call numbers that begin with two letters, designating the Library of Congress assigned subject classification for the book. The first letter or letters of each book's call number can be looked up by library floor or collection, using stack directory charts. The stack directory charts are available online on the Libraries' website. You may access 'other library catalogs' from the Libraries homepage.

Books about literary criticism can also be accessed electronically, using the Netlibrary database. How to locate the 'Netlibrary' database:

- Click on the 'Databases A-Z' box on the Coleman Library homepage.
- Click the letter N to access the list of database titles including Netlibrary.
- Type 'Netlibrary' into the database title search box.
- Locate 'Netlibrary' in the General, Multidisciplinary & Reference database.

Finding Articles

Want to find articles about literary criticism?

Articles about literary criticism are available in Coleman Library in print, microform, or electronically. If the article is a microform document, it can be found

in room 207, the Microtext room, on the second floor of Coleman Library. Printed journal articles are located on the third floor in Coleman Library. The patron can search electronic journal articles by subject, magazine title, or database by clicking on 'E-journals & Newspapers' on the Coleman Library homepage.

Want to find web sites about literary criticism?

The patron can locate web sites about literary criticism by clicking on 'search engines' on the Coleman Library homepage. The patron can select from a variety of search engines, and use the desired search terms to complete the research.

Selected Online Websites for Literary Criticism

ACRL-Internet Resources: Literary Theory

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues2002/march/literarytheory.cfm>

Internet Public Library: Literary Criticism

<http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/>

Literary Criticism

<http://42explore.com/litcrit.htm>

Literary Criticism – Britannica Online Encyclopedia

<http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9110461/literary-criticism>

Literary Criticism Libraryspot.com

<http://www.libraryspot.com/litcrit.htm>

Literary Criticism Online Resources

http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/harris/LitCrit_Links.htm

Literary Resources - Miscellaneous (Lynch)

<http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/misc.html>

MLA Citation Style

<http://www.liunet.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citmla.htm>

Poetry Analysis

<http://www.poetrymagic.co.uk/critiquing.html>

PVHS English

<http://www.chicousd.org/pvlib/english.htm>

Writing the Paper

Need some help formulating your paper or citing sources?

- Paper citation guides, dictionaries, or thesauri are available by request at the

Information Commons desk.

- Subject resource guides for different research topics can be accessed online by clicking on 'research help' on the Libraries homepage.
- Citation guides can be found by clicking on 'research help' on the Coleman Library homepage or by using search engines to search on the World Wide Web.

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