

# Literary Criticism:

## Finding Critical Sources

### Articles

To find articles on specific authors and their works, use the DATABASES (available from Library web page [www.loyola.edu/library](http://www.loyola.edu/library) via English/Literature Resources or Databases by Title)

#### Literary Criticism:

- **MLA Bibliography** References to sources on literature, language and film. (1963-pres.)
- **LION** Provides text, criticism and biographical information of English and American authors.

#### Literary Biography/Criticism

- **Literature Resource Center** Biographical information on authors as well as overviews of their work and some criticism.

#### Additional Useful Resources:

- **JSTOR** backfile of scholarly articles on many academic topics including literary criticism.
- **Project Muse** Full-text journals in literature, performing arts and other topics.

#### Book Reviews (use only when you can't find enough criticism in literary journals):


- **New York Times (1999-present)** good for contemporary book and film reviews.  
Use more search options to limit to citations and abstracts, reviews or specific dates.
- **New York Times (1851-1998)** for reviews of works published during this times period.  
Use more search options to limit to citations and abstracts, reviews or specific dates.
- **Reader's Guide Retrospective (1890-1982)**: limit to date book was published
- **Academic Search Premier** general database that covers a variety of topics including book and film reviews.
- **Book Review Digest** (Indexes and Abstracts -- Range 108)
- **Book Review Index** (Indexes and Abstracts -- Range 109)

#### Searching the Databases:

- Formulate a thesis question on which your research will be centered

- Search a relevant database using keywords or search by subject when appropriate.
- Use AND to find citations containing both keywords: e.g., (symbolism AND Faulkner)
- Use OR for related terms to search for citations that contain one term OR the other. e.g., (women or feminine)
- Always put OR phrases in the same search box and enclose with parentheses
- Use truncation (often the asterisk\*) to retrieve similar words with different endings, e.g., spirit\* will retrieve, spirits, spiritual, spirituality, etc.

**Finding Full-Text:** Often the databases will provide citations but not the full-text on an article. When you have a citation and need to find the full-text, try the following steps.

- use  if available in the database to help you find a journal article in another database, in the library catalog, or request it from another library.

If ArticleLinker is not available:

- Search **Electronic Journals** ([http://www.loyola.edu/library/ejournals\\_a.htm](http://www.loyola.edu/library/ejournals_a.htm)) to see if a journal is full-text online (search by title of the journal NOT title of the article).
- Search the **Library Catalog (SHARC)** to see if a journal is located in our library.
- Request an article or book from **interlibrary loan (ILL)** if not full-text online or in the library. (use the Request forms on the library's home page)

## Books

- **SHARC:** library catalog which has references to books by and about authors. The library catalog is shared by 3 other libraries. Use the request tab at the top of the page to request a book from one of these other libraries (24-48 hour turn around).
- If you can't find a book in the library catalog, you can request it through **ILL**.
- **WorldCat** worldwide catalog of books and other materials. Useful for finding the table of contents for short story collections.

**Selected Reference Books** (located on first floor in Reference Section)

Contemporary Literary Criticism (PN771.C59)

Nineteenth-Century Literary Criticism (PN761.N5 1981)

Poetry Criticism (PN1010.P499 1991)

Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism (PN771.G27)

See also English/Literature Resource Page: [www.loyola.edu/library/ref/english.htm](http://www.loyola.edu/library/ref/english.htm)

## Need Help?

Contact the Reference Department - Telephone: 410 617-6802

Email: [askemail@loyola.edu](mailto:askemail@loyola.edu)  
Also: live chat from library home page