

Literary criticism is the evaluation, analysis, description, or interpretation of literary works. Criticism may examine a particular work, or may look at an author's writings as a whole. The amount of information you will find on an author will be dependent on several factors: when the author wrote, how much material is available on him/her, how popular the author is, etc. It can be harder to find information on newer authors for the simple fact that less time has passed for researchers to study and write about the author and his/her works. Certain authors are more popular topics for research than others and simply more has been written. When planning your research, take these issues into account.

Print Resources

Reference Materials: Bio-bibliographical dictionaries and encyclopedias are excellent places to start, as they will provide a general overview of an author, his/her career, and works, often accompanied by critical essays. Some suggested starting points include:

Critical Survey of Poetry: British, Irish and Commonwealth Poets. Reisman, Rosemary M. Canfield, ed. Hackensack, NJ: Salem Press, 2011. **R 809. 1003 C934 Zre v.1**

Critical Survey of Short Fiction: Topical Essays. May, Charles E., ed. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2012. **R 809.31 C934may 4th ed.**

Moser Linda Trinh and Kathryn West. Contemporary Literature, 1970 to Present. New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2010. **R 810.72 M899r**

Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature. Parini, Jay, ed. New York: Oxford University Press: 2004. **R 810.3 O98p v. 4**

Critical Compilations

McParland, Robert. Citizen Steinbeck: Giving Voice to the People. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016. **813.52 S8197 Zm**

Moran, Daniel. Creating Flannery O'Connor: Her Critics, Her Publishers, Her Readers... Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 2016. **813.54 O18 Zmo**

Short Fiction of Flannery O'Connor. Evans, Robert C., ed. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2016. **813.54 O18 Ze**

Stephen King and Philosophy. Held, Jacob M., ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016. **813.54 K54 Zhe**

Virginia Woolf and 20th Century Women Writers. Artuso, Kathryn Stelmach, ed. New York: Grey House Publishing, 2014. **823.912 W913 Zs**

Wyatt, David. Hemingway, Style, and the Art of Emotion. Cambridge University Press: New York, 2015. **813.52 H488 Zwy**

Electronic Databases

Bloom's Literature: This resource contains more than 20,000 critical essays from over 500 literary journals and 2,300 scholarly and critical books, including 700 titles published by Bloom's Literary Criticism and Facts On File. Also included in the database are more than 13,000 biographies, 45,000 character entries, 5,000 synopses of literary works and hundreds of images and videos.

JSTOR: *JSTOR* provides access to the complete archives of a core collection of 117 scholarly journals. Select the specific journals or discipline you wish to search, and then search your topic by keyword, author or title.

Literature Resource Center – LRC: Find up-to-date biographical information, overviews, full-text literary criticism and reviews on more than 130,000 writers in all disciplines, from all time periods and from around the world.

MLA Bibliography with Full Text: Produced by the Modern Language Association (MLA), the electronic version of the bibliography dates back to the 1920s. The database contains millions of citations as well as full text for 1,000 journals.

Salem Literature: provides critical insights on literary themes, authors and select works while providing critical surveys of various genres and literary forms.

Scribner Writers Series: Scribner Writers Series provides original, scholar signed essays on the lives and works of authors from around the world from all time periods. Entries include concise essays, citations, and biographical information that places the author and their works in personal and historical context.

Twayne's Author Series: Twayne's is devoted to in-depth critical introductions to the lives and works of major writers of the world within the context of the time period in which they lived. It provides insightful and original commentary on the history and influence of literary movements.