



Finding Information about Plays and Authors in the JSCC Library

I. Reference Materials: (use the Literary Index database for an electronic index to Gale reference articles)

Criticism and Summary:

Drama for Students (Ref PN1601.D595)

- Author biographies, analysis, context and criticism

Drama Criticism (Ref PN1601.D59)

- Check author and title indexes in the highest numbered volume

Contemporary Literary Criticism (Ref PN771.C59)

- Covers authors now living, or who died after 1960
- Use the cumulative title index to direct you to a specific volume and page

***Note:** Much of the material in the print volumes of *Contemporary Literary Criticism* is also available electronically, using the *ontemporary Literary Criticism* database. See page 2 of this handout for details.

Masterplots (Ref PN44.M33 1996)

- Discusses the plot, themes and meanings, style and technique of famous works of literature, including a number of plays

Masterplots II: Drama Series (Ref PN6112.5.M37 1990)

- Includes plays not covered in the original *Masterplots*

***Note:** The contents of the entire *Masterplots* series (22 sets of reference books, 102 volumes) is also available on one CD-ROM station in the Data Center. Search by author, title, and more.

Black Literature Criticism (Ref PS153.N5.B556 1992)

- Covers African-American authors, including playwrights
- Author and Title indexes are included in Volume 3

Critical Survey of Drama: Foreign Language Series (Ref PN1625.C74 1986)

Critical Survey of Drama: English Language Series (Ref PR623.C75)

- For each author, gives listings of principal drama and other works; achievements; biographical information; and analysis of his or her works

Dramatic Criticism Index (Ref Z5781.B8)

- Individual works are listed alphabetically, under the author's name
- Each citation refers you to a book, or periodical article. You will then have to determine if the JSCC Library owns the book, or subscribed to the periodical needed during the appropriate time period. We will not have a significant portion of these sources in the library.

Biographical Information:

Afro-American Fiction Writers (Ref PS153.N5.A34 1984)

Afro-American Writers, 1940-1955 (Ref PS153.N5.A388 1988)

Afro-American Writers Before the Harlem Renaissance (Ref PS153.N5.A386 1986)

Afro-American Writers from the Harlem Renaissance to 1940 (Ref PS153.N5.A387 1987)

American Women Writers (Ref PS147.A4)

Ancient writers : Greece and Rome (Ref PA3002 .A5 1982)

American Writers (Ref PS129.A55)

Contemporary Authors (Ref PN451.C66)

Current Biography (Ref CT100.C8)

(Biographical Information - cont'd.)

Cyclopedia of World Authors II (Ref PN451.C93 1989)
Dictionary of American Biography (Ref E176.D563)
Dictionary of National Biography (Ref DA28.D47)
Fifteen American Authors Before 1900 (Ref PS201.R38)
Latin American Writers (Ref PQ7081.A1.L37 1989)
Modern American Women Writers (Ref PS151.M54 1990)
Science Fiction Writers (Ref PS374.S35.S36 1982)
Sixteen Modern American Writers (Ref PS221.F45 1974)
Spanish American Authors: The Twentieth Century (Ref PQ7081.3.F57 1992)
Twentieth-Century American Dramatists (Ref PS351.T9)
World Authors (Ref PN451.W3) (Ref PN451.W67) (Ref PN451.W672)

II. Books:

JSCC Online Library Catalog:

If you are looking for information ABOUT a play, rather than the text of the play itself, search for the author as a *subject*. Enter the author's name in the following manner:

hansberry lorraine

From the list of subheadings, you should find books specifically giving biographical or critical information. If this does not yield any results, try using a *keyword* search, using the author's name and title words.

NetLibrary:

You might also want to try *NetLibrary*, a fully searchable collection of books online. Available from the *Online Library Catalog* or *Databases* links on the library home page. For access from home, please contact us.

III. Computer Indexes/Databases:

These databases are available on computers in the Data Center. From the library home page <<http://library.jsc.edu>> click **Databases**, choose the 'Literature' category, then select the database you wish to search. Please ask us for the usernames and/or passwords that you will need to access several of these from home.

Contemporary Literary Criticism

- An extensive collection of critical essays on contemporary authors.

Literary Index

- Index to reference books (like Contemporary Authors, Contemporary Literary Criticism, or the Dictionary of Literary Biography) you can find the information in. Use the Online Catalog to see which reference books we have in the library.

Literature Resource Center

- Provides biographies, bibliographies and critical analysis of authors from every age and literary discipline, combining Gale's most used literary databases to cover more than 120,000 novelists, poets, essayists, journalists, and other writers.

Magill on Literature

- The information in this database equals the complete contents of 31 sets of reference books, including nearly 20 *Masterplots* and *Masterplots II* titles, the *Cyclopedia of World Authors*, the *Cyclopedia of Literacy Characters*, as well as 10 years of *Magill's Literary Annuals* and *Magill Book Reviews*.

Need Help? Ask at the *Reference Desk*, call (731) 424-3520 ext. 572