



## Finding Information About Literature and Authors

Also, see specific library handouts available for more detailed information about these and other short story, drama, and poetry resources

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

### Criticism and Summary:

Short Stories for Students\* (Ref PN3373.S56)

Short Story Criticism (Ref PN3373.S5)

Critical Survey of Short Fiction (Ref PN3321.C7)

Masterplots II: Short Story Series\* (Ref PN3326.M27 1986)

Poetry for Students (Ref PN1101.P64)

Poetry Criticism (Ref PN1010.P499)

Critical Survey of Poetry (Ref PN1111.C7)

Masterplots II: Poetry Series\* (Ref PN1110.5.M37 1992)

Drama for Students (Ref PN1601.D595)

Drama Criticism (Ref PN1601.D59)

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

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

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

Contemporary Literary Criticism\* (Ref PN771.C59)

\*Note: Selected materials from this series are available in an online database. See page two of this handout.

Masterplots\* (Ref PN44.M33 1996)

\*Note: The contents of the Masterplots series (more than 20 sets of reference books) is also available online using the *MagillOnLiterature* database. See page two of this handout.

### 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 Short-Story Writers, 1880-1910 (Ref PS374.S5.A39 1988)

American Short-Story Writers, 1910-1945 (Ref PS374.S5.A396 1989)

American Short-Story Writers Before 1880 (Ref PS374.S5.A38 1988)

American Women Writers (Ref PS147.A4)

American Writers (Ref PS129.A55)

American Writers in Paris, 1920-1939 (Ref PS129.A57 1980)

British Writers (Ref PR19.B68 1997)

Contemporary Authors (Ref PN451.C66)

Current Biography (Ref CT100.C8)

## II Books:

- **Online Library Catalog** - If you are looking for information ABOUT a work, rather than the text of the work itself, search for the author as a *subject*. Enter the author's name like this:

*Hawthorne Nathaniel*

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** - A fully-searchable collection of full-text books right on your computer. Set up an individual password from an on-campus computer for access from home.

### III Computer Indexes/Databases:

These databases are available on computers in the Data Center. From the library home page <<http://library.jssc.edu>> click **Databases**, choose the category indicated, 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.

#### Literature category:

- **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*.

#### Encyclopedias & Reference category:

- **Oxford Reference** - Oxford Reference Online brings together language and subject reference works from one of the world's biggest reference publishers into a single cross-searchable resource.  
Humanities Full Text

#### Humanities & Social Science category:

- **Humanities Full Text** - brings you full text plus abstracts and bibliographic indexing of the most noted scholarly sources in the humanities, as well as numerous lesser-known but important specialized magazines.

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