

## LITERARY CRITICISM--SELECTED REFERENCE SOURCES

John F. Moss/Palmer Memorial Libraries

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Listed below are a select few literary criticism references. We hope you can explore these materials as well as other sources in your library. Please feel free to ask our library staff any questions you might have.

### **\*THE ONLINE CATALOG\***

<http://milli.tamut.edu/search/>

The online catalog is good place to begin searching for criticism about an author's writing. The catalog will indicate the books that discuss the author's life, list his works, and list books of criticism about them. Select Subject from the pull down tab menu or from the blue tabs. Enter subject heading. Examples:

HEMINGWAY, ERNEST, 1899-1961

HEMINGWAY, ERNEST, 1899-1961 BIBLIOGRAPHY

HEMINGWAY, ERNEST, 1899-1961 CRITICISM & INTERPRETATION

### **\*MAGAZINE ARTICLES\***

MLA (Modern Language Association) is an Internet accessible database that indexes by subject articles, which appear in literary and critical journals. Articles are listed under the author's name and further subdivided by work if necessary. Academic Search Premier (EBSCOhost) a database is a general subject index that includes a limited amount of literary criticism. The Literature Resource Center is a internet accessible database with some full text criticism.

### **\*GALE SERIES & GALE LITERARY INDEX\***

The Gale Series are books--large, multi-volume sets--containing reprinted literary criticism by knowledgeable critics. There is an average of five excerpts presented for each author. They are all located in the Reference Department, as are indexes for each set. The Gale's Literary Index (a link located on the Literature Resource Center) combines the indexes of all the sets into one searchable database. The database will search by author or title. Some examples of the set titles are:

**Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800 Call # Ref Folio PN 86 L53**

**19th Century Literary Criticism (1800-1900) Call # Ref Folio PN 761 N5**

**20th Century Literary Criticism (1900-1960) Call # Ref Folio PN 94 T 93**

**Contemporary Literary Criticism (1960-present) Call # Ref Folio PN 771 C59**

**Shakesporean Criticism Call # Ref Folio PR 2968 W25 S43**

### **\*OTHER REFERENCE BOOKS\***

**American Women Writers Call # Ref PS 147 A4, V. 1-5**

Provides bibliographical and critical information on American women authors from Colonial days to 1975. In addition to writers of literature, AWW also includes writers of psychology, politics, philosophy, etc.

**British Writers Call # Ref PR 85 B 688**

Readable essays of the lives, careers, and works of British authors. A selected bibliography of the author's principle works and critical studies of those works conclude each essay.

**Dictionary of Literary Biography Call # Ref PS 21 D5, V. 1-5**

A large multi-volume work covering British and American writers. Though largely biographical, it does usually summarize critical feeling about an author's work. A good place to start! The last volume contains the index.

**Literary History of the United States Call # Ref PS 88 L522, V. 1 & 2**

This provides a comprehensive survey from colonial times to present with a selected bibliography. Volume two provides bibliographic essays on various aspects of the field, including individual authors. It is indexed in the back of each volume.

**20th Century Short Story Explication Call # Ref Z 5917 S5 W33 and Ref Z 5917 S5 W35 1993 (New series)**

An index to critical analyses of short stories appearing in books and literary magazines. Arranged by authors, then subdivided by story. Volumes cover the years 1978-1990.

**Poetry Explication Call # Ref Z 2014 P7 K8**

Arranged by poet and subdivided by poem, this helpful work gives citations to essays in both books and periodicals.

**MaGill's Critical Survey Of:**

**Poetry Call # Ref PN 1111 C7, V. 1-5**

**Short Fiction Call # Ref PN 3321 C7**

**Long Fiction (two sets) Call # Ref PN 3503 C7**

**Selected Novels and Plays Call # Ref PN 44 M344**

**Contemporary Literature Call # Ref PN 44 M34**

**Science Fiction Call # Ref PN 3448 S45 S88**

These are multi-volume sets containing critical essays. Search for the author in the excellent index located in the last volume--this is often subdivided by story, poem, etc. It will refer back to a page number in the volumes giving critical commentary on that particular work.

**\*BOOK REVIEWS\***

Book reviews can be a good source of critical information. You will need to know the author, title, and date of publication. A helpful source in this library is:

**Book Review Digest Call # Ref Z 1219 C96**

This summarizes reviews that appeared when the work was originally published and gives a source (usually a magazine) for the complete review.