



How to ... Locate Plays

There are several different ways to go about locating a play. They may be published as a book, in an anthology or collection of plays, in a periodical, or in a full-text database of plays (either print or electronic). When trying to locate a specific play, try these three resources:

- PITTCat (library catalog)
- Play Indexes
- Full-text Databases of Plays

PITTCat

Locate plays published as books or that appear in collections with other plays by first searching PITTCat. To locate a play published on its own, search for the title in PITTCat.

It is also possible to locate a play published in a book as part of a collection of plays. To locate collections of plays by the **same author**, search by author's name. To find a play in a collection of plays by **different authors**, search for keywords from the author or the title.

Play Indexes

The Library also owns a number of play indexes (reference books that will refer you to plays in books or periodicals). Using the citation the index provides, you then search PITTCat (library catalog) to determine if the ULS Libraries own the book or periodical in which the play appears. The following are a few play indexes to try:

Drury's Guide to Best Plays Reference Z 5781 .D8

Indexes primarily twentieth-century plays published as books and in collections.

Index to Full Length Plays Reference Z 5781 .T5

The first two volumes index full-length plays published as books and in collections from 1895 to 1944. A third volume covers the years from 1944 to 1964.

Index to One-Act Plays Reference Z 5781 .L83

Indexes one-act English language plays (including plays in English translation) from 1900 to 1924. Five supplements cover the years from 1924 to 1964.

Index to Plays, 1800-1926 Reference Z 5781 .F57

Indexes plays published in books and periodicals by title, author, and subject. A good resource for locating lesser known plays from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Index to Plays in Periodicals Reference Z5781.K43 1979

Indexes plays published in periodicals since 1914, including plays in foreign languages.

Inter-Play

<http://www.lib.pdx.edu/systems/interplay/>

An electronic index created by librarians at Portland State University that indexes more than 18,000 citations to plays in collections.

Ottomiller's Index to Plays in Collections

Reference Z 5781 .O8

Indexes plays in collections published since 1900 in the English-speaking world.

Play Index

Reference Z 5781 .P53

This multi-volume set indexes English language plays, including ones in English translation, published since 1949.

Full-Text Electronic Collections

*Locate under "Find Articles" tab and then click "Locate Databases" and "By Title".

Black Drama*

This database contains three sections: Part I "covers key writings of the Harlem Renaissance, works performed for the Federal Theatre Project, and plays by critically acclaimed dramatists of the 1940s," Part II covers North America in the 1960s through the 1990s, and Part III covers African and Caribbean drama in the twentieth century.

Editions and Adaptations of Shakespeare*

Electronic Text Archives and Plays Online

<http://vl-theatre.com/list4.shtml>

Part of the World Wide Web Virtual Library. Includes plays by individual playwrights as well as comprehensive collections, such as Italian, classical, and Renaissance plays.

English Verse Drama*

Contains over 2,000 works by around 450 named authors and approximately 230 anonymous works.

Theatre in Video*

This database contains definitive performances of the world's leading plays, together with film documentaries, all online in streaming video. There are currently 279 titles available.