



LITERATURE RESOURCE CENTER:

A Database Guide

Literature Resource Center is a literature reference database. It is built on selections from three literature core reference tools, *Contemporary Authors*, *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, and *Dictionary of Literary Biography* and offers coverage of over 100,000 writers with rich biographical, bibliographical, and critical content. The *Literature Resource Center* contains information on literary figures from all time periods writing in such genres as fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, history, journalism, and more.

Accessing *Literature Resource Center*

From the Owen Library home page <http://www.upj.pitt.edu/library> select <Databases A-Z>. Then select by clicking on the database *Literature Resource Center*. Click <Connect to the Database>, then click <Proceed>. The *Literature Resource Center* **default** Author Search page will appear.

Author Search

<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>	<input type="button" value="Clear Form"/>
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Other Searches:

Title	Advanced	Keyword
Authors by Type	Literary-Historical Timeline	

Searching *Literature Resource Center*

Author Biographies & General Information

The default search is an **Author Search**; to perform this search type in the author's last name followed by the author's first name. If you do not know the first name, attempt the search with only the family (last) name. After typing in the name click <Search>. If the search is successful a list of results should appear. Click on the <author's name> [Faulkner, William \(1897-1962\)](#) and information about that author will be displayed.

Using the information:

Biographical information will appear first; this can be accessed by clicking on the <citation> "[William Faulkner," in *Dictionary of Literary Biography, Volume 9: American Novelists, 1910-1945. A Bruccoli Clark Layman Book. Edited by James J. Martine, Saint Bonaventure University. The Gale Group, 1981, pp. 282-302.*](#) below the author's name. To access literary criticisms, bibliographies, additional resources, or to see the author's place in a literary timeline click on the appropriate tab on the screen



located above the author's name, and then click on the appropriate citation.

Locating Literary Criticisms & Reviews

When searching for literary criticisms or reviews of a particular work it is usually best to use a title search to find materials specifically related to a work. Use a keyword search if you are searching for criticisms or information on a particular literary genre (ex. New Left Authors) or a literary theme (ex. bildungsroman).

To conduct a **Title** or **Keyword Search** go to the name search page and click on either <title> or <keyword> from the selections below the search box and one of the following screens will appear. Next construct a search and click <Search>.

Title Search

Enter the title of a work:

Any words entered

All words entered

Exact title

Narrow your search by author name:

Start of last name

Any words entered

Exactly as entered

When using a **Title Search** to find information and literary criticisms on a specific work or series of works, and you are unsure of the title; use the “*Any words entered*” option, this will search the database for any title that contains the words you selected. The “*All words entered*” option will search existing titles for all of the words in you search string in the order you have typed them in. The last choice “*Exactly as entered*” will search titles for an exact match to the title you have typed in.

NOTE: A **Title Search** can be narrowed by adding the author’s name in the second search box.

Using the Information:

To access the information click on the <citation> that most closely matches your search criteria. Remember that the back/forward buttons on the browser can be used to navigate through the results. Click on the appropriate tab at the top of the page to access biographical information, literary criticisms, bibliographies, additional resources, or to see the authors place in a literary timeline click.

Keyword Search

NOTE: When using a **Keyword Search** to search for a general literary concept or for a broad genre or theme, begin by searching general terms and then use the option to narrow your search by combining themes with Boolean Operators (and, or, not).

Using the Information:

To access the information click on the <citation> that most closely matches your search criteria. Remember that the back/forward buttons on the browser can be used to navigate through the results. Click on the <tabs> at the top of the page to access biographical information, literary criticisms, bibliographies, additional resources, or to see the authors place in a literary timeline click.

** If you need assistance using this or other databases, please do not hesitate to ask a Reference Librarian in-person or call the Reference Desk at x7295.