

## English and American Literature Resource Guide

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This guide provides selected information resources for English and American literature. Included are Mildred F. Sawyer Library research databases, print resources in the Reference collection, and websites.

### Periodical Indexes & Full-Text Databases

#### [Literary Reference Center](#)

This comprehensive database includes not only 100,000 articles of literary criticism but also includes plot summaries, author biographies, book reviews, literary reference books, and the full-text of many classic and contemporary short stories and poems. Magill's well-known *Masterplots* series is included in the Literary Reference Center database as are *Critical Survey of Long Fiction* (also REF PN3451 .C75 2000), *Critical Survey of Short Fiction* (also REF PN3321 .C7 2001), and *Critical Survey of Poetry* (also REF PN1021 .C7 2003).

#### [Humanities International Complete](#)

This database provides full text of hundreds of journals, books and other published sources from

around the world. Humanities International Complete provides cover-to-cover indexing and abstracting for over 2,000 journals and includes all data from American Humanities Index and Humanities International Index plus unique full text content, much of which is not found in other databases.

### [Contemporary Literary Criticism](#)

A collection of selected full-text critical essays and excerpts from essays on contemporary writers now living or who died after 1959. Each entry contains a biographical/critical introduction, a list of principal works, and sources for further study. This database contains entries for authors in volumes 95 onward; the complete printed multi-volume set of *Contemporary Literary Criticism* is in the Sawyer Library Reference stacks (REF PN771 .C59).

### [The Cambridge Companions to Literature and Classics](#)

The contents of one hundred and sixty-four *Cambridge Companions* may be searched by keyword including an author's name. You will find substantial critical essays that analyze an author's major works and place each author in literary and historical context. "The generic and topical Companions cover periods of English literature such as Old English or the Victorian Novel, and literary genres such as Modernism or Greek Tragedy, giving the student vital contextual information about political, social, religious and artistic relationships. The Companions to Classical Civilisation examine key periods and aspects of the civilisations of ancient Greece and Rome."

### [Academic Search Premier](#)

Our best general research database, this online resource provides indexing and abstracting for over 8,000 journals of which 3,600 are peer-reviewed publications, with full-text access for nearly 4,700 of the titles. Indexing and abstracting coverage generally from the mid-1980's and full-text coverage for many titles dating back to 1990. You may limit search results to full-text and peer-reviewed articles. The "document type" limiter in Advanced Search allows you limit your search to book reviews as well as other types of reviews.

### [Academic OneFile \(InfoTrac\)](#)

Includes more than 60 million articles from more than 11,000 titles, from mainstream to specialized sources covering virtually every popular, business and professional topic. Coverage begins in 1980. You may limit search results to full-text and refereed articles.

### [JSTOR](#)

Indexes and provides full-text access to over 300 scholarly journals including 64 journals in the area of languages and literature. Coverage is from volume 1, issue 1 of each journal. Note that there is generally one to five years between the last issue available in JSTOR and the most recently published issue of a journal.

### [Project Muse](#)

Indexes and provides full-text access to over 200 scholarly journals covering many disciplines

including literature. All journals are peer-reviewed.

### [LexisNexis Academic](#)

If you are looking for full-text book, movie, or play reviews published in newspapers dating from the mid-1980's, use the News search option and select Source "Book, Movie, Music, Play and Video Reviews."

## Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

### [Glossary of Literary Terms](#)

[http://www.galegroup.com/free\\_resources/glossary/index.htm](http://www.galegroup.com/free_resources/glossary/index.htm)

This very nice dictionary of literary terminology is a free resource from Gale, the publisher of all those literary criticism reference collections that Sawyer Library owns. Extensive listings, with links in individual entries to related terms. Jack Lynch of Rutgers University also has a no-frills [Glossary of Literary and Rhetorical Terms](#) that might be worth consulting.

### [Dictionary of Literary Symbols](#)

One of the electronic reference works available in the [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) collection, the *Dictionary of Literary Symbols* covers traditional Western literary symbols used mainly in poetry.

### [The Bloomsbury Dictionary of English Literature](#)

Accessible from the [literature section](#) of the online reference library [Credo Reference](#), this volume contains entries on writers, on individual works, Biblical and mythological characters and events, literary and critical terms and movements, and entries describing historical, cultural and social events.

### [Dictionary of Shakespeare](#)

Another good online literary dictionary from the [literature section](#) of the online reference library [Credo Reference](#). You will find here "synopses of plays and their characters, entries for theatrical, historical and social terms from the Elizabethan age, literary terms and expressions used about Shakespeare's work, and details of individual theatres, their construction and production techniques."

### [The Oxford Companion to American Literature](#)

### [The Oxford Companion to English Literature](#)

Both of these well-known subject reference works are part of the [Oxford Reference Premium Online](#) database. Each title contains thousands of informative biographical summaries and summaries of important literary works. Also recommended are: [The Concise Oxford Companion to Classical Literature](#) which covers classical authors, their works, literary forms, and historical, political, social, and artistic background; [The Oxford Companion to Shakespeare](#), a

comprehensive guide to Shakespeare's plays and poems; and [The Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Poetry in English](#) which provides worldwide coverage of poets, poems, magazines, movements, and critical terms.

### [A Handbook to Literature](#)

REF PN41 .H355 2003

The main section of this compact volume consists of concise entries, and in some cases, short articles for literary terms but you will also find here a chronological outline of English and American literary history and lists of winners of the Nobel Prize for literature and Pulitzer Prizes for fiction, poetry, and drama.

### [A Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory](#)

REF PN41 .C83 1998

Providing a larger and more wide-ranging selection of literary terms than [A Handbook to Literature](#), this dictionary also includes entries on literary genres, concepts, schools and movements, and literary theories.

### [McGraw Hill Encyclopedia of World Drama](#)

REF PN1625 .M3

Coverage includes plays of the ancient Greeks and Romans to modern English language dramas. Enlivened by black and white photographs of stage productions, articles for each author include a biography, criticism of the author's works, synopses of the plays, a bibliography, and a play list.

### [The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry & Poetics](#)

Available online in the [Literary Reference Center](#) database, this encyclopedia surveys the history of poetry of over 100 nations from ancient to modern times. Also available in print form in the Sawyer Library Reference stacks (REF PN1021 .N39 1993).

### [Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature](#)

Includes articles on authors, major writings, literary movements from colonial times to the present, and topical essays on subjects such as "Naturalism and Realism." Also available in print form in the Sawyer Library Reference Stacks (REF PS21 .E537 2004).

## **Criticism, Analyses and Reviews**

The Gale Group publishers have produced many multi-volume sets which reprint excerpts from important literary criticism on works by major writers. Gale also offers an online [Literary Index](#), ([www.galenet.com/servlet/LitIndex/](http://www.galenet.com/servlet/LitIndex/)), which identifies the series and volumes that cover a particular author or a particular work. Refer to the Sawyer Library's Resource Guide for the [Gale Literary Criticism Series](#) for more information about each of the following sets:

[Contemporary Literary Criticism](#) REF PN771 .C59

Bio-critical essays on contemporary writers such as Maya Angelou and William Faulkner. (Volume 95 onward is available online in the [Contemporary Literary Criticism](#) database.)

[Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism](#) REF PN771 .G27

[Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism](#) REF PN761 .N5

[Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800](#) REF PN86 .L56

[Poetry Criticism](#) REF PN1010 .P499

[Short Story Criticism](#) REF PN3373 .S386

[Black Literature Criticism](#) REF PS153 .N5 B556

[Shakespearean Criticism](#) REF PR2965 .S43

[Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism](#) REF PN610 .C53

### [The Cambridge Companions to Literature and Classics](#)

The contents of one hundred and sixty-four *Cambridge Companions* may be searched by keyword including an author's name. You will find substantial critical essays that analyze an author's major works and place each author in literary and historical context.

### [The Columbia Companion to the Twentieth-Century American Short Story](#)

Select the Literature category in [Credo Reference](#) to search the full-text of this resource which contains critical essays about the works of major American short story writers and about topics such as "The Asian-American Short Story."

### [The Cambridge Guide to Literature in English](#)

This survey of literature in the online reference database [Credo Reference](#) provides "detailed biographical and critical articles, not only about writers and works of literature, but also about the critics, philosophers, historians, and biographers who have influenced or reacted to literature." Literary genres, concepts and movements are also discussed.

### [Reference Guide to Short Fiction](#)

Accessible from the [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#), this volume contains biographical data, bibliographies and critical essays on the short fiction of 376 authors, half of whom are North American or British. Author entries and short fiction criticisms are grouped in separate sections within the volume. [Short Stories for Students](#), also available from the Gale Virtual Reference Library beginning with volume 1, provides brief synopses of each story's plot, characters and themes, an author biography, and excerpted criticism.

### [Short Story Writers](#) (Magill's Choice)

REF PN3373 .S398 1997

This 3-volume set surveys 100 "of the most important authors of short fiction: the most taught, most read, most acclaimed, and most researched in the American library." About half of the authors are American. Each entry provides concise biographical data and an analysis of the author's short story writing.

## [A Reader's Companion to the Short Story in English](#)

REF PS374 .S5 R43 2001

Includes biographical information, bibliographies and analyses of specific works for writers of short stories in English whose writing dates from the 1960s to the present.

## [Poetry for Students](#)

This 16 volume set in the [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) database contains author biographies and critical essays for "poems that teachers and librarians have identified as the most frequently studied in literature courses."

## [World Poets](#)

REF PN1021 .W67

Bio-critical essays of primarily English and American poets plus 14 essays on themes such as "Harlem Renaissance Poetry" and "Performance Poetry" are published in this 3-volume set.

## [Drama for Students](#) (in the [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) database)

Self-described as a resource "presenting analysis, context and criticism on commonly studied dramas." Each entry in this multi-volume set provides an introduction to the play and its author, a plot summary, and an analysis of the play's themes and characters. This set is also available in the Sawyer Library Reference stacks (REF PN1601 .D595).

## [Major Modern Dramatists](#)

REF PN1861 .M27 1984

The use of excerpts from reviews, articles, and books creates overviews of the careers of major modern Western dramatists from the late-nineteenth through the late-twentieth centuries.

## [Contemporary Dramatists](#), 5th edition

REF PN1625 .V5 1993

"Contains entries on living English-language writers for the stage." Each entry includes bio-critical information and a signed essay.

Additional selected resources:

[Asian American Literature: Reviews and Criticism of Works by American Writers of Asian Descent](#) REF PS153.A84 A82 1999

[Native American Literatures: an Encyclopedia of Works, Characters, Authors, and Themes](#) REF PS153.I52 W47 1999

[Latino Literature in America](#) REF PS153.H56 K48 2003

## [LiteraryHistory.com](#)

<http://www.literaryhistory.com/>

This handy website, edited by Jan Pridmore, "is an index to free internet articles on topics in

English and American literature. It is designed to be convenient and useful for students, scholars, writers, teachers, reading groups, and general readers. All links lead directly to articles, and articles must meet basic academic standards to be included." Still, be warned, many teachers will not want you to use these articles, so check with your instructor, when in doubt.

### [Internet Public Library: Literary Criticism](http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/)

<http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/>

This is another website that tries to organize web material about authors and their works. It includes links to both biographical as well as criticism webpages. Browse by author surname, title of literary work, or region and time period. Although the site is well-organized, it is chock-full of both bad links and links to fee-based materials. So, it can be a frustrating experience to use.

## Directories and Metasites

### General Directories and Metasites

#### [Literary Resources on the Net](http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/)

<http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/>

Maintained by Jack Lynch of Rutgers University, this page contains extensive subject-classified listings of links to literature study materials on the web. Entries are often, but not always, annotated.

#### [Voice of the Shuttle](http://vos.ucsb.edu/index.asp)

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/index.asp>

VoS is a large metasite of listings to Humanities websites. The section [Voice of the Shuttle: Minority Literatures](#) is a solid portal to web materials related to minority authors in the U.S. Specific sections include African-American, Asian-American, Chicano/Latino, Jewish, and Native-American.

#### [LiteraryHistory.com](http://www.literaryhistory.com)

[http://www.literaryhistory.com/](http://www.literaryhistory.com)

This handy website, edited by Jan Pridmore, "is an index to free internet articles on topics in English and American literature" favoring signed articles by recognized scholars, articles published in reviewed sources, and web sites that adhere to the *MLA Guidelines for Authors of Web Sites*." Still, be warned, many teachers will not want you to use these articles, so check with your instructor, when in doubt.

### [Internet Public Library: Literary Criticism](http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/)

<http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/>

This is another website that tries to organize web material about authors and their works. It includes links to both biographical as well as criticism webpages. Browse by author surname,

title of literary work, or region and time period. Although the site is well-organized, it is chock-full of both bad links and links to fee-based materials. So, it can be a frustrating experience to use.

### [Intute](http://www.intute.ac.uk/)

<http://www.intute.ac.uk/>

Intute, produced by a group of universities in the United Kingdom, describes itself as "a free online service providing access to the very best web resources for education and research." Each of the listed resources is accompanied by a useful description, evaluation, and details such as author, designer, and publisher of the website. Look for English and American literature websites in the "American Studies" and the "English Studies" sections of the "Arts and Humanities" pages of Intute.

### [A Celebration of Women Writers](http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/)

<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/>

Mary Mark Ockerbloom of the University of Pennsylvania maintains this useful website, which links users to research information (and often full-text of public domain writings) by and about women authors, throughout the ages. Browse by category, country, ethnicity, or by name of author.

### [American Literature Directories and Metasites](#)

#### [Voice of the Shuttle: Literature \(in English\) American Literature](http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2739)

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2739>

VoS is a massive metasite project based at the University of California at Santa Barbara. This particular webpage provides a wide-ranging group of academic-approved links in American literature studies. Note the "On this Page" outline in the upper right and use this to jump to a more specific area. Or simply scroll down the page to look through the "General Resources in American Literature" links. VoS tries to link to just about anything that might be useful. Unfortunately, their lists are so extensive that there is precious little room for evaluative or descriptive annotation. So, be prepared to do a lot of browsing and clicking when using this website. Or, use the search engine in the upper right corner of the screen.

#### [PAL: Perspectives in American Literature](http://www.csustan.edu/english/reuben/pal/TABLE.HTML)

<http://www.csustan.edu/english/reuben/pal/TABLE.HTML>

This impressive metasite is the work of Paul P. Reuben of California State University at Stanislaus. Professor Reuben breaks down American literature into time periods and then provides a specific page of information and bibliographic references on individual authors. Tied to these individual PAL pages you will also find "Outside Link" pages that are worthwhile.

#### [Literary Resources--American](http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/american.html)

<http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/american.html>

Another extensive web list of links, this one maintained by Jack Lynch at Rutgers University.

Notations are very brief, but there is a lot to explore here. There are listings for individual authors and also for specific aspects of American letters, like "the Beats" and "Native American Literature."

### [Outline of American Literature](#)

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/oal/oaltoc.htm>

Written by Kathryn VanSpanckeren, and sponsored by the Department of State's International Information Programs, this webpage is in the form of an outline or table of contents. Pick a chapter and section (e.g., "The Brahmin Poets") and click on it to get Professor VanSpanckeren's essay on the topic. Content includes many short profiles of American authors, and even has a glossary of literary terms at the end. Unfortunately, there is no search engine, so you just have to browse and read.

### [American Authors on the Web](#)

<http://www.lang.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/AmeLit.html>

The work of Mitsuharu Matsuoka of Nagoya University in Japan, this website, specific to American literature, is short on design but long on content. It links to a great many webpages related to both traditional literary lions and more contemporary authors (like Donna Tartt). The main listing is in chronological order, and there are era markers at the top that allow you to jump to the authors of a particular time period.

### [Useful Resources in American Literature and Culture](#)

<http://www.columbia.edu/~lmg21/bookmark.htm>

This Columbia University based page is another handy list of links to web materials related to all aspects of American Literature, including American Studies, Early American Materials, and Nineteenth-Century Materials. Lots of links to digital text collections are listed here, as well.

### **[English Literature Directories and Metasites](#)**

#### [Voice of the Shuttle: Literature \(in English\)](#)

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=3>

VoS is a massive metasite project based at the University of California at Santa Barbara. This particular webpage provides a wide-ranging group of academic-approved links in literature studies. Note the "On this Page" outline in the upper right and use this to jump to a more specific area. Or simply scroll down the page to look through the "General English Literature Resources" links. VoS tries to link to just about anything that might be useful. Unfortunately, their lists are so extensive that there is precious little room for evaluative or descriptive annotation. So, be prepared to do a lot of browsing and clicking when using this website. Or, use the search engine in the upper right corner of the screen.

### [English Literature on the Web](#)

<http://lang.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/EngLit.html>

This nice website, specific to English literature, is the work of Mitsuharu Matsuoka of Nagoya

University in Japan. It organizes its links by time period and also provides a set of connections to electronic texts in British literature. Entries are not annotated, but the website is updated often, so the links are usually not dead ends.

### [Chaucer MetaPage](#)

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/chaucer/index.html>

Initiated at the 33rd International Congress of Medieval Studies by a group of medievalists interested in promoting Chaucer studies on the web, this site aims to "organize and provide navigation aides for Chaucer resources on the WWW."

### [The Luminarium's English Literature: Early 17th Century \(1603-1660\)](#)

<http://www.luminarium.org/sevenlit/>

One of three sites first created in 1996 to provide a starting point for students and enthusiasts of English Literature, this section of [The Luminarium](#) (which also covers Medieval and Renaissance Literature) addresses the era of John Donne, Ben Jonson, John Milton, and the like. It presents the works of the authors, as well as criticism of those works and a basic biography, with links to further information.

### [Mr. William Shakespeare and the Internet](#)

<http://shakespeare.palomar.edu>

This attractive guide to scholarly resources on William Shakespeare covers not only the literary aspects of his work, but also the stagecraft. It also addresses related topics like the "authorship problem" and provides links to full-text of Shakespearean works themselves.

### [The Victorian Web](#)

<http://www.scholars.nus.edu.sg/landow/victorian/victov.html>

The Victorian Web is a project from the National University of Singapore. It covers the literature, history and culture of the age of Victoria. It provides good coverage of individual authors from this period. Unfortunately, the fragmented approach to presenting information in a "web" of sub-topics, is somewhat unwieldy.

## **Full-Text Literature Resources on the Web**

### [Internet Public Library: Online Texts](#)

<http://www.ipl.org/div/subject/browse/hum60.60.00/>

The IPL used to maintain a "Books Collection" of over 20,000 titles. Now they simply maintain an annotated list of other full-text portals for literature studies. This is still a good place to start when you are trying to find an archive of original texts to suit your needs. But, warning, the "search" box at the top of the screen offers to search "this collection," but it does not accurately search across the different online text collections listed. You are better off picking a likely candidate from the listings and then exploring the linked website. Another useful general directory of electronic journals and texts can be found at the International Federation of Library

Associations and Institutions (IFLA) [Digital Libraries webpage](#).

### [Project Gutenberg](#)

<http://promo.net/pg/>

The oldest free internet book text project, dating back to 1971, Project Gutenberg contains the no-frills text of over 6200 examples of "Fine Literature Digitally Re-Published." Search by author or title, or use the browse feature. Still qualifying as a labor of love by those involved, Project Gutenberg continues to welcome volunteers and donors to contribute to this ongoing effort.

### [Electronic Text Center](#)

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/uvaonline.html>

The University of Virginia's Electronic Text Center provides an "on-line archive of tens of thousands of SGML and XML-encoded electronic texts and images." Materials are in fifteen languages and cover all of the humanities. Some items (marked "UVA Only" in red) are available only to members of the University of Virginia community, but the great majority of these primary materials are freely available. American subject collections include African-American, Native American, Edgar Allan Poe, and Walt Whitman.

### [Alex Catalogue of Electronic Texts](#)

<http://www.infomotions.com/alex/>

"The Alex Catalogue of Electronic Text is a collection of "great" American and English literature as well as Western philosophy. All the texts are in English, and there are about 600 of them total. " Browse or search by author, title, or date.

### [The Online Books Page](#)

<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu>

John Mark Ockerbloom at the University of Pennsylvania created and continues to edit this directory of 20,000 English language works in various formats that are "freely readable over the Internet." Search or browse the books by author, title, and subject, or search by author name or words in title. The website also includes a long page of links to other [large collections of online texts](#) and a page listing [collections of magazines, journals, and newspapers](#). A partner site, [A Celebration of Women Writers](#), provides access to online versions of published books on a wide range of subjects written by women through the ages.

### [BUBL LINK: English Literature to 1800](#)

<http://bubl.ac.uk/link/e/englishliteratureto1800.htm>

BUBL LINK is "a catalogue of selected Internet resources covering all academic subject areas and catalogued according to DDC (Dewey Decimal Classification). All items are selected, evaluated, catalogued and described. Links are checked and fixed each month." This page provides links to a variety of useful text sites related to English Literature studies.

### [American Verse Project](#)

<http://www.hti.umich.edu/a/amverse/>

This project, of the University of Michigan Humanities Text Initiative, reproduces the text of many volumes of 19th century poetry, along with a few 18th century and early 20th century collections. The site allows for basic search, proximity searches and boolean searching. There is also a word index that allows you to browse for unique words in the text. Or browse the main list of sources (which is in alphabetical order by author/editor's name).

### [Wright American Fiction, 1851-1875](#)

<http://www.lettrs.indiana.edu/web/w/wright2/>

Part of the Digital Library Program of Indiana University, this impressive collection of over 2,800 volumes of American fiction reflects the entries in a well-known bibliography written by librarian Lyle Wright, first published in 1957. You will find the full-text of works by writers like Nathaniel Hawthorne and Mark Twain here, as well as hundreds of lesser known authors. A very valuable digital archive.

### [Stanford's Dime Novel Collection](#)

<http://www.sul.stanford.edu/depts/dp/pennies/collection.html>

Besides high-culture literature, we learn much by studying the popular literature of an era. "Stanford's Dime Novel and Story Paper Collection consists of over 8,000 individual items, and includes long runs of the major dime novel series (Frank Leslie's Boys of America, Happy Days, Beadle's New York Dime Library, etc.) and equally strong holdings of story papers like the New York Ledger and Saturday Night." These texts were all originally published in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

### [Perseus Digital Library](#)

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/>

"Perseus is an evolving digital library....Our primary goal is to bring a wide range of source materials to as large an audience as possible." Although the content linked from this website, both primary and secondary, is wide-ranging, it is especially strong in the areas of Greek, Roman, and Ptolemaic materials. There is also an growing section of full-text documents and support materials in the field of early modern English literature.

### [Online Medieval and Classical Library](#)

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/OMACL/>

Part of the [Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE](#), "the Online Medieval and Classical Library (OMACL) is a collection of some of the most important literary works of Classical and Medieval civilization." There is a search engine, or you can browse by title, author, genre, or language to find primary texts. A set of links to other related resources is also provided.

### [Renaissance Editions](#)

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/%7Erbear/ren.htm>

This very useful "Online Repository of Works Printed in English Between the Years 1477 and 1799" is maintained by the University of Oregon. The long alphabetical list, by author surname, is right on the opening screen but you can also search this site by author name.

## [Luminarium](http://www.luminarium.org/lumina.htm)

<http://www.luminarium.org/lumina.htm>

This website was created back in 1996 by Anniina Jokinen "to provide a starting point for students and enthusiasts of English Literature." It collects or links to texts as well as essays and articles on classics of literature from three periods: the "Medieval" (Middle English Literature, 1350-1485), the "Renaissance" (Renaissance English Literature, 1485-1603), the "17th century" (from 1603-1660), and the "Restoration and 18th Century" (1660-1785). Browse by author, or by literary school (e.g., the Cavalier Poets), or use the search engine on the opening screen.

## [The Complete Works of William Shakespeare](http://the-tech.mit.edu/Shakespeare/)

<http://the-tech.mit.edu/Shakespeare/>

Alas, Yorick, this website is not what it once was. During a disk failure in 2000, this MIT-sponsored page lost its collection of Shakespearean poetry, and that content has still not been restored. However, the plays are here. Organized into categories (Comedy, History, and Tragedy) you can select a play and then go to the individual scenes.

## [eO'Neill.com](http://www.eoneill.com/index.htm)

<http://www.eoneill.com/index.htm>

The official website of the Eugene O'Neill Society is a wonderful resource for his readers. There is a lot of full-text on this website including selected plays, reviews of productions of his plays, essays about the plays, and [Contour in Time](#), Travis Bogard's book about O'Neill's work (also [available](#) in the Sawyer Library). You will also find the complete archives of *The Eugene O'Neill Newsletter*, which was superseded by [The Eugene O'Neill Review](#) which is published "by Suffolk University in cooperation with the Eugene O'Neill Society."

## [Electronic Text Collections in Western European Literature](http://www.lib.virginia.edu/wess/etexts.html)

<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/wess/etexts.html>

Housed at the University of Virginia, and sponsored by WessWeb (Western European Studies Section) and the Association of College and Research Libraries, this extensive directory links to literature resources in almost twenty European languages.

## [EServer.org](http://eserver.org/)

<http://eserver.org/>

The subtitle of this site, based at the University of Washington, is "Accessible Writing." It is where "hundreds of writers, editors and scholars gather to publish over 35,000 works free of charge." The focus is contemporary as well as classic here. EServer links readers to a "45 collections on such diverse topics as art, architecture, race, Internet studies, sexuality, drama, design, multimedia, and current social issues," from contemporary criticism and commentary to original primary materials from older sources. Use the site's own search engine, or browse through the extensive "Collections."

## [African American Women Writers of the 19th Century](#)

[http://digital.nypl.org/schomburg/writers\\_aa19/](http://digital.nypl.org/schomburg/writers_aa19/)

Another impressive digital collection, this one from New York Public's Digital Schomburg. After entering the site, you may browse by title, author, or by type of work. Useful biographies of included authors are also available at the site.

## [The Cambridge History of English and American Literature](#)

<http://www.bartleby.com/cambridge/>

Bartleby.com is a useful commercial site that posts web versions of classic reference volumes now in the public domain. This particular page presents the text of eighteen volumes of literary history published between 1907 and 1921. Bartleby says of the work: "Considered the most important work of literary history and criticism ever published, the Cambridge History contains over 303 chapters and 11,000 pages, with essay topics ranging from poetry, fiction, drama and essays to history, theology and political writing. The set encompasses a wide selection of writing on orators, humorists, poets, newspaper columnists, religious leaders, economists, Native Americans, song writers, and even non-English writing, such as Yiddish and Creole." Browse through sections, or use the search engine on the opening page. And try to ignore the annoying ads.

## **Miscellaneous Literature Websites**

### [Academy of American Poets](#)

<http://www.poets.org/>

A major American poets group produces this website, so you can find out about major poetry events like National Poetry Month here. Use the "Find a Poet" link to the left to find short introductions to poets. The "Find a Poem" link is also useful. If you forget who wrote that short poem about a "red wheelbarrow," you can search those keywords and pull up the text of the poem by William Carlos Williams. (Keep in mind, the original poems can only be reproduced if they are in the "public domain" or if the poetry.org site was able to get permission to reprint. Therefore, only selected poems are available here.) Although this is the website of an American group, it has some very useful content for English Literature studies as well.

### [American Writers](#)

<http://www.americanwriters.org/>

This is a companion site for C-SPAN's special series, from 2002, on American authors. You can select an author, a particular work, or an American literary locale from one of three lists. Not only literary authors are profiled here. Since C-SPAN records American political life, social thinkers from James Madison to Sojourner Truth are also included in the first series. And the second series showcases authors of the twentieth century from Upton Sinclair to Betty Friedan.

### [Favorite Poem Project](#)

<http://www.favoritepoem.org/>

A partnership among Boston University, the Poetry Society of America and the Library of Congress, this project was founded by Robert Pinsky, the 39th Poet Laureate of the United States. "Since its launch, the Favorite Poem Project has been dedicated to celebrating, documenting and promoting poetry's role in Americans' lives." Includes the full-text of some of America's best-loved verse.

### [Norton Anthology of American Literature](http://www.wwnorton.com/naal/)

<http://www.wwnorton.com/naal/>

This companion website to the five anthology volumes so often used as college textbooks can provide some quick and useful information on American literary eras and their most significant authors. Timelines, introductory essays, and short author biographies are available here. Pick the volume covering the time period you are interested in, then browse through the features listed in the left-hand frame.

### [Modern American Poetry](http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/index.htm)

<http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/index.htm>

Another book companion, this time to an *Anthology of Modern American Poetry* (Sawyer Library PS613 .A54 2000), edited by Cary Nelson, and published by Oxford University Press in 2000. If you click on the black box marked "Poets" you will reach 161 poet companion sites. At the individual pages you will find both biographical and critical materials, plus external links to further webpages.

### [Online American Literature Resources](http://college.hmco.com/english/heath/toc.html)

<http://college.hmco.com/english/heath/toc.html>

Yet another textbook-related webpage, this one is associated with Houghton Mifflin's *Heath Anthology*. It lists general web resources, but also highlights individual authors, listing internet materials related to "American" writers from earliest European exploration through the nineteenth century.

### [Brief Timeline of American Literature and Events](http://www.wsu.edu/~campbelld/amlit/timefram.html)

<http://www.wsu.edu/~campbelld/amlit/timefram.html>

This handsome website is the product of Donna Campbell of Gonzaga University. Her timeline puts literary events in America (pre-1620 to 1920) side by side with political and social events at the same time. Very interesting to peruse! Also, check out the icons at the top of the screen. Professor Campbell also provides useful pages on "American Authors," "Literary Movements" and other "American Literature Sites."

### [Storytellers: Native American Authors Online](http://www.hanksville.org/storytellers/)

<http://www.hanksville.org/storytellers/>

Although the opening graphic is a bit startling, and you might not be interested in the virtual greeting cards and Amazon.com links, this regularly updated website, created by Karen M. Strom, still does a good job of covering its stated scope. Listings are both alphabetical by author name, and also by tribal affiliation.

## [Native American Authors](#)

<http://intersect.uoregon.edu/ahs/resources/NativeAmericanAuthors.ins.htm>

Much briefer, this page by Lynne Anderson-Inman of the University of Oregon is also worth looking at.

## Biographies of Writers

### [Dictionary of Literary Biography](#)

This is an excellent bio-critical series on British and American authors. Each volume in the series deals with a specific genre and time-period. For example, [American Short-Story Writers Since World War II](#) (REF PS374.S5 A398 1993) is volume 130 of the series, and [Asian American Writers](#) (REF PN451 .D48) is volume 312 of the series.

[Contemporary Authors](#) REF PN451 .E8 (vols.1-205)

[Contemporary Authors. New Revision Series](#) REF PN451 .E8 NRS (vols.1-113)

These ongoing series provide biographical and bibliographical sketches for a wide range of modern authors from around the world. Recent volumes (2003 to the present) of both series can be found online in the [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) database. Use Gale's [Literary Index](#), ([www.galenet.com/servlet/LitIndex/](http://www.galenet.com/servlet/LitIndex/)) to easily identify the series and volumes that cover a particular author or a particular work.

### [Biography Resource Center](#)

The *Biography Resource Center* database combines biographies from the Gale Group sources. Includes photographs of the biographees and full-text articles from hundreds of periodicals.

### [American Authors 1600-1900](#)

REF PS21 .K8 1938

One volume biographical dictionary containing entries on almost 1,300 American authors.

## Indexes to Literature in Collections

[Granger's Index to Poetry](#), 10th edition

REF PN1022 .H39 1994

Granger's indexes poems published in 400 anthologies. You can search for poems by author, title, first line, last line, and subject.

### [Play Index](#)

REF PN1655 .P53

A comprehensive index to plays written in English or translated into English which are published

separately or in collections. Locate plays using the integrated author, title and subject index. The Sawyer Library has all volumes currently in print, i.e. 1953 through 2002.

### [Short Story Index](#)

REF PN3375 .Z935 1950-2004

Multi-volume set provides a combined author, title and subject index to thousands of English language stories and stories in English translation. The author entries give publication information for the collections, anthologies or periodicals where the short stories appear.

### [The Afro-American Short Story: a Comprehensive, Annotated Index with Selected Commentaries](#)

REF PS153 .N5 Y36 1986

This book is a reference to over 850 Afro-American short stories for the period 1950-1982. Includes listing of stories in collections and anthologies, and commentaries on the stories.