Using Library Resources to find Literary Criticism

English 1540

Library Homepage:  http://www.sunyjcc.edu/library
Literary Criticism LibGuide:  http://sunyjcc.libguides.com/litcrit

Your Topic?

Related Concepts and Literary Terms

Author Nationality, Birth and Death Dates, Alternate Name(s)

Background Information: (Dictionaries, Companions, Guides, Historical Context, Biographies)

Print Sources from the Reference Collection

Gale Virtual Reference Library Database (Literature Subject Area)

Credo Reference Database (Search Language & Literature)

Library Catalogs

Use the JCC Library Catalog to find books in the General Collection. Search Types:

Keyword Search – Use “Words in author” to find books BY an author, “Words in Subject” to find books ABOUT an author.

Browse Search – Use “.....begins with” or “author firstname, lastname” for an alphabetic list.

All Fields – Use this search to find your author or topic in any part of the book’s record.

Important books from the print Reference Collection containing literary criticism and biography include:  
Twentieth Century Literary Criticism(TCLC), Contemporary Authors(CA), Short Story Criticism(SC), Contemporary Literary Criticism(CLC)....and more.  **You will use the Literary Index Database to find articles in these volumes (see below.) Content from these volumes may also be available in the Literature Resource Center Database.

Interlibrary Loan (ILL): If you are looking for a book or journal article not available from JCC look under USE THE LIBRARY on the Library Homepage for Interlibrary Loan.  Fill in and submit the ILL Form to send for the item.  This process can take up to a week for books, but can be faster for articles.  Use the same process to send for a book from a different JCC campus.
Online Databases from the JCC Library Homepage: (SEARCH COLLECTIONS>Databases by Subject>Language and Literature)

To find literary criticism and in-depth analysis:

Literary Index (Use Author Search to find print articles in SC, TCLC, CLC and CA)

Literature Resource Center (biographies and critical analyses)

Magill on Literature (Masterplots: Plot summaries, analyses and biographies – not criticism)

Salem Online (Critical Survey, Critical Insights, Masterplots)

Twayne’s Authors Series (Discussions and chronologies of authors’ works and lives)

Humanities Source (Scholarly articles, literary criticism)

Also try these General Topic Databases: (SEARCH COLLECTIONS>Databases by Title)

ProQuest Research Library (Literature & Language subject area)

Academic Search Complete (Try Advanced Search and limit by Document Type>Literary Criticism)

Tools that most databases have in common:

Checkbox for Full Text – Checkbox for Academic, Scholarly or Peer Reviewed Journals – Date Limiters

Internet Sources:

Check with your instructor to make sure that Internet Sources are permitted.

You should be able to find everything you need from the library databases and print collection. If you use the Internet to find sources make sure you limit yourself to official author websites, usually affiliated with an educational institution or trust, such as http://www.blakearchive.org or http://zoranealehurston.com/.

Wikipedia – Use the References section of an article to find and evaluate other sources. Do not use Wikipedia as a source!

Evaluate Sources:

Evaluate all sources, especially those you find on the Internet. For example, documents from .edu sites may contain student assignments and are not suitable for your research. Go to the Introduction to Research guide at http://sunyjcc.libguides.com/intro_research to find a copy of the C.R.A.A.P. test.

For more help, click on Writing/Citing Guides under RESEARCH HELP on the Library Homepage. There are several excellent sites listed under Online Writing Assistance.

Document your Sources:

Make a note of how, where and when you find each article, even if you don’t think you will use it!

Go to Writing/Citing Guides under USE THE LIBRARY on the Library Homepage. Click on MLA Citation Guide (http://sunyjcc.libguides.com/MLA8Guide) to open the online guide. For specific examples of how to cite articles from the Databases look under the “Other Sources” Tab in the guide.

The MLA and APA Citation Manuals are available to use at the Reference Desk.

The Reference Librarians are citation experts – use them!