

Literary Criticism

Literary criticism may be found as an article in a scholarly journal, as one chapter in a book of essays, or in a book of criticism about the author or the work.

Searching Within Blackwell Library Databases

JSTOR - an online archive of scholarly journal articles, all full-text.

At the *Advanced Search Page*, type the literary author's name (usually last name is enough) on one line. On the second line, type the name of the work you are researching. If it's more than one word, use quotation marks.

Example: Frost
"Mending Wall"

Then, mark the box for *Article*.

Academic Search Premier – an index of popular periodicals and scholarly journals; many articles are full-text, while others can be located using the yellow "Find It" buttons.

At the *Advanced Search Page*, enter author and the name of the work on two separate lines. Scroll down and mark the box labeled *Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) journals*.

QUICK TIP: Do Not limit your search to full-text only. You'll get more articles if you view the whole search and then use the *Find It* buttons which link to full text in other databases.

MLA International Bibliography - the world's most comprehensive index to critical studies of literature. If a search of MLA does not find anything on the work of literature you are researching, this is a good indication that little or nothing has been written about it.

At the *Advanced Search page*, type in the name of the work of literature (omit *a*, *an*, *the* at the beginning of a title).

Example: **catcher in the rye**

Include the authors last name if needed for precision.

Example: hopkins <in subject>
spring <in subject>

(Many poems have the word "spring" in the title; using the author's name focuses your search on one particular poem—"Spring" by Gerard Manley Hopkins.)

LIMITERS

- Language - Since MLA is international in scope, it's important to limit your results to ENGLISH. Use the drop-down menu under *Language*.
- Publication type - You may want to limit your search to ARTICLES since MLA covers many types of materials.

QUICK TIP: in MLA, the author of the literary work is your subject. "Author" refers to the person who wrote the article about the work of literature.

To find books:

Click on the library link FIND BOOKS AND MORE. This takes you to the Salisbury University portion of the USMAI online catalog.

At the *Advanced Search page*, type the literary author's name on one line and use the drop down menu to select *Subject*. On the next line, type the word "criticism."

Example: <subject> sylvia plath
criticism

If you are looking for criticism on a major work that is very famous, you may find whole books on that one work. To search for these, enter the **name of the work** on one line, limiting it to *subject*, and the word **criticism** on the line below.

Example: <subject> macbeth
criticism

Do you want more books to choose from?

Go to the *Choose Campus* link just below the yellow bar at the top of the page. Then select the first option, *USMAI (all campuses)*. Repeat your search.

You can order books from the other campus libraries—click on the title, then click on AVAILABILITY, then click on REQUEST and follow the prompts. You will need the 14-digit bar code number from your Salisbury University Gull Card.