Research Resources for English Literature

A. Get Connected

Library Web Page  →  http://library.queensu.ca

If using a non-Queen’s Internet service, you will need to use the Webproxy service.

Help  →  Connect from Off-Campus

B. Consider Resources

1. Starting Points

   How-to & Help  →  Research by Subject  →  English Language and Literature

2. Some Reference Resources

   Oxford Reference Online
   For dictionaries, quotations, literary terms, companions to literature and more

   Oxford English Dictionary
   (20 volumes) on the web and in print, SL Reference PE1625 .O87 1989t
   For etymology, date chart, history of words

   For full text literary criticism across the centuries see the Gale Literary Criticism Series: for e.g.:

   Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism - Stauffer Reference: PN761 .N5
   Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800 - Stauffer Reference PN86 .L53 1984 (28 vols.)

   Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online
   Presents persons who died between the years 1000 and 1920 (or whose last known date of activity falls within these years) and who played an important role in the formation of Canada.

   Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (online)
   50,000 biographies of people who shaped the history of the British Isles and beyond, from the earliest times to the year 2001.

3. Special Collections and Archives

   Special Collections houses rare and outstanding works. Use to view original bindings (Dickens); illuminations; letters; and especially for Canadiana in general. Use Archives for materials on the history of Queen’s University and the City of Kingston.

4. Holdings in Libraries across Canada and around the World

   Find Information  →  Other Library Catalogues  →  Amicus or WorldCat
5. Interlibrary Loans

Services  →  Borrowing from Other Libraries  →  RACER  →  Login to RACER

6. Theses/Dissertations

Search Proquest Dissertations and Theses to find titles of dissertations from over 1,000 universities throughout North America and worldwide from 1861. Includes 24-page previews for all theses submitted since 1997, along with an online ordering option for purchasing theses. Queen’s theses, submitted since 1997, can be downloaded free.

Go to Theses Canada Portal for free access to full text Canadian electronic theses published between 1998 to 2002.

7. RefWorks

RefWorks is a web-based citation management program that is freely available at Queen’s. Use it to record and organize citations and full text papers, add references in MS Word, and create bibliographies using different style guides. For more information and to create an account, go to My Account  →  RefWorks

C. Search QCAT, the Queen’s Library Catalogue

Search QCAT for titles of books, journals, videos, government documents and more.

Search by AUTHOR

blake william  View different editions of Songs of Innocence.

Search by TITLE

complete poetical works of shelley  Remove initial articles such as “the, an, a, le, la”…

Search by JOURNAL TITLE

cornhill magazine  Do we have the issues for 1894?

victorian studies  Where can you read vol. 44 no. 3 for Spring 2002: article is Autobiography in Fragments: The Elusive Life of Edith Simcox?

american literature  Where can you read vol. 72 no. 4 for December 2000: article is Charity Begins at Home: Stowe’s Antislavery Novels and the Forms of Benevolent Citizenship?

Search by KEYWORD

Use this search when you do not know the proper LC Subject Heading, when you want to search for a word(s) or phrase anywhere in the record or when you want to expand/narrow your search.

Before searching the Library catalogue or databases, think about your topic. Break down your topic into concepts or keywords. Think of synonyms for each keyword or concept.
TOPIC: imagery as represented in the *Heart of Darkness*

imagery and “heart of darkness”

Select useful titles and look at the complete record by clicking on the full record. Use the subject headings to provide more keyword ideas or as individual searches themselves.

(imagery or symbolism) and “heart of darkness”

Also try: (imagery or symbolism) and conrad and joseph

**Search by SUBJECT HEADING**

Subject searches allow you to search for items about a specific subject. To successfully search by subject, you must use LC Subject Headings.

Use the following search to find information about a specific author and his or her work. Check subheadings and scroll forward for works on individual titles.

e.g.  Fitzgerald, F. Scott (Francis Scott), 1896-1940.
    Fitzgerald, F. Scott (Francis Scott), 1896-1940 -- Criticism and interpretation
    Fitzgerald, F. Scott (Francis Scott), 1896-1940. Great Gatsby
    Fitzgerald, F. Scott (Francis Scott), 1896-1940 -- Political and social views

**D. Search Indexes and Databases**

1. **Indexes to Journal Articles and more...**

   Find Information  →  Articles

   Browse titles or type in title in Search box

   Process for searching journal indexes:

   Search -- click on [Get it! Queen’s] -- find out if we subscribe in print or digital format -- mark records -- email full text where possible otherwise save -- export to Refworks. If we don't have the journal, request it via interlibrary loan.

   - **America: History and Life:** 1954 - present
     Contains citations to articles, book reviews, and dissertations on the history of North America from prehistory to the present day.

   - **Arts and Humanities Citation Index:** 1975 – present (part of Web of Science)
     The print index allows users to trace subjects, cited authors, and critics in articles published in 1,200 scholarly periodicals. Includes journals from the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, and Canada.

   - **Canadian Business and Current Affairs:** 1982 – present
     Citations and 30% full text of articles from over 1500 magazines and journals. Use for Canadian content.
     **Search:** morley callaghan and (catholic* or religion)
     Some records are citations, some include the full text. Option to email articles.
- **Early Canadiana Online**: 16th to early 20th century
  ECO is a full text collection of more than 3000 books and pamphlets documenting Canadian history from the first European contact to the late 19th century. The collection is strong in literature, women's history, native studies, travel and exploration, and the history of French Canada. Use for CIHM documents. Has original page images. Restrict search for best results.

  **Search**: Duncan Campbell Scott as author

- **Gender Studies**: 1972 - present
  Covers the full spectrum of gender-engaged scholarship. Indexes popular and scholarly journals, books, essays, proceedings, websites and multi-media publications.

- **Historical Abstracts**: 1954 - present
  Contains citations and abstracts to 2,100 journals as well as books and dissertations on the history of the world (excluding the U.S. and Canada) from 1450 to the present.

- **Humanities Abstracts**: 1984 - present
  Citations to articles in 350 English-language scholarly journals and specialised magazines. Material includes interviews; obituaries; reviews (of ballets, dance programs, motion pictures, musicals, operas, plays, radio and TV programs); and book reviews. See also *Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective*, 1907-1984.

- **International Medieval Bibliography**
  This bibliography covers all aspects of medieval studies within the date range of 400 to 1500. The geographical coverage is of the entire continent of Europe.

- **Iter: Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance**
  Indexes over 550 journal titles pertaining to the Middle Ages & Renaissance (400-1700).

- **Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory & Criticism**
  Comprehensive survey of ideas and scholars from Plato to modern times, including developments in other disciplines that have shaped literary theory and criticism. International scope, but emphasis is on Western critical theory.

- **Literature Online**
  Searchable database of 350,000 works of English and American poetry, drama, and prose. Also indexes criticism from *The Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature* (ABELL) and *MLA International Bibliography* (MLAIB). Includes the full text of 168 literature journals, text of literary reference works and Websites selected for their relevance to literary studies. Includes “Knowledge Notes” for students.

- **Modern Languages Association Bibliography (MLA)**: 1963 – present
  This is the standard bibliography for scholarly writing on literature, linguistics, drama, folklore and more. Indexes over 4000 international journals, as well as monographs, dissertations, and other publications. The print copy goes back to 1921 (SL Reference PB6.M61).

- **Nineteenth Century Masterfile**: ca.1802 - 1907
  An integration of indices to popular and general interest Anglo-American and European periodicals from the 19th century.
ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Online: 1861 - present
Citations to theses in all subject areas completed at accredited North American colleges and universities, as well as at approximately 200 institutions worldwide. Abstracts are included for doctoral dissertations completed since 1980, and for masters theses completed since 1988. Includes 24 page previews for all theses submitted since 1997, and the additional option of downloading the full text of any Queen's thesis submitted since 1997.

Sample Search with MLA ✪

Topic: Criticism of *Great Gatsby* and the American Dream.

**Standard Search:** Subject – Author’s Work: great gatsby

Modify Search

Keyword(s): american dream
Author’s Work: great gatsby

Sample Search with LION ✪

Topic: Censorship in Elizabethan England and in particular, Shakespeare.

**Search:** Criticism and Reference (Criticism)

Keyword: censorship
Subject: Shakespeare

Modify Search

Keyword: censorship
Subject: English literature and 1500-1599

2. E-Collections

Selected electronic journal collections that include Humanities journals:

- **JSTOR (Journal STORage)**
  JSTOR is a digital archive of over 700 core scholarly journals from 43 disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Under the category Language and Literature, 87 journals are listed. Date coverage: Begins with each journal’s first, published volume and continues up to within 2-5 years of the currently published volume. This gap is described as "a moving wall".

- **Project MUSE**
  Project Muse is the collection name for over 320 scholarly electronic journals published by the Johns Hopkins University Press plus other presses. Coverage includes the fields of literature and criticism, history, the visual and performing arts, cultural studies, education, political science, gender studies, and many others. Date coverage: starting date variable from 1995 – present.

- **Literature Online**
  Database of 350,000 works of English and American poetry, drama, and prose. Includes full text of 168 literature journals and Websites selected for their relevance to literary studies. 600 – present.
3. Primary Sources

For information about primary sources, check the Primary Sources page

How-to & Help → Research by Subject → Primary Sources

- **Palmer's Index to "The Times". London, 1790-1905.** Available online and on Microfiche no. 274 (located in the Microforms collection on the Lower Level)

- **The Index to the Times, 1906 - present:** Stauffer Reference AI21.T5. Microfilm for 1906-1950

- **The Times Digital Archive (1785-1985)**

- **Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals 1824 -1900,** 5v: Stauffer – Reference: AI3 W45
  Online: available at the Stauffer Research Stations, click Humanities & Social Sciences folder. Citations for articles published in 45 nineteenth century British periodicals. (This is not a guide to modern writing about Victorian periodicals.) *Citations only.*

- **English Short Title Catalogue.**
  A catalogue of early printed books, providing, as far as is practically possible, a complete record of publications in England to include material from the earliest printing (c.1473) to the end of 1800. It includes a comprehensive bibliography of the printed output of the hand-press era, lists the whereabouts of surviving copies, and notes the existence of facsimiles. The holdings of over 1,500 libraries around the world are represented. Geographically, the ESTC includes:
  1. All relevant items printed in the British Isles in any language
  2. All relevant items printed in Colonial America, the U.S. (1776-1800) and Canada in any language
  3. All relevant items printed in territories governed by Britain up to 1800; in any language
  4. All relevant items, printed wholly or partly in English, in any other part of the world

- **Early English Books Online (EEBO)**
  Full text of much of the ESTC. Online collection covering English literature, history, philosophy, linguistics, theology, music, fine arts, education, mathematics, and science. Comprises 100,000 of the 125,000 titles from these works:
  A. W. Pollard and G. R. Redgrave's *Short-Title Catalogue* of English Books published 1475-1640
  B. Donald Wing’s *Short-Title Catalogue* of English books published from 1641-1700
  C. Thomason Tracts, 1640-1661, collection of manuscripts, pamphlets, books and newspapers relating to the Civil War, the Commonwealth and the Restoration
  D. Early English Books Tract Supplement

- **CIHM**
  Search for primary sources and copies of original texts via QCAT.
  cihm and “duncan campell scott”

  For online equivalent, use **Early Canadiana Online** (ECO).
E. Search World Wide Web Resources

1. Start with known research links:
   Voice of the Shuttle
   http://vos.ucsb.edu/
   Browse categories:
   Literature (in English)
   Literary Theory
   Literary Resources on the Net
   http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/

2. Check websites listed under the English Language and Literature subject guide.

3. Use the advanced capabilities of a search engine such as Google for fast precise searching or Google Scholar for scholarly literature.

   Find Information → Websites

4. Look at Subject Directories guides, which are large indexes of reviewed websites.

5. Evaluate websites – for points to consider go to:

   Find Information → Websites → Evaluate Websites

Exercises

QCAT
1. Find criticisms of King Lear.
2. Find books on the characterization of women in Thomas Hardy’s novels.

MLA
1. Find articles on Margaret Atwood’s Alias Grace.
2. Find articles on Browning’s The Ring and the Book.
3. Find articles on the characterization of women in Thomas Hardy’s novels.

LION
1. Find articles on mother daughter relationship in Toni Morrison’s novels and in particular Bluest Eye.
2. Find criticisms on class bias in Dickens’ works, in particular, Great Expectations.
3. Find the use of the term devil in the text, Dorian Gray.

EEBO
Find editions of Hamlet.  

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