

# Mina Rees Library

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## MLA/Literature Resources from Gale

**What is MLA?:** The Modern Language Association (MLA) International Bibliography indexes over 3,000 periodicals dealing with literature, language, linguistics, folklore, and popular culture from 1926 to the present. See JSTOR for sources before 1926.

**What is Literature Resources from Gale?:** Literature Resources from Gale includes more than 10,000 bio-critical essays from *Dictionary of Literary Biography*; biographical information about over 120,000 writers from *Contemporary Authors*; all entries from *Contemporary Literary Criticism* since volume 95 and complete profiles of more than 200 of the most studied authors from previous editions of *CLC*; the *Scribner Writers Series* of 15-to-20-page essays, covering over 1,600 writers and literary genres; the full text of 600 books from *Twayne's Author Series*; selected content from *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*, *Nineteenth-Century Literary Criticism*, *Literature Criticism from 1400-1800*, *Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism*, *Poetry Criticism*, *Short Story Criticism*, and *Drama Criticism*, and full text from recent issues of 328 journals. Over three-million documents are indexed.

**Accessing MLA and Literature Resources from Gale:** These databases can be accessed by going to [library.gc.cuny.edu](http://library.gc.cuny.edu) and clicking *Databases*. Home access is explained at [library.gc.cuny.edu/databases/remote.html](http://library.gc.cuny.edu/databases/remote.html).

**Searching Suggestion:** Limit your search to MLA only when looking for specific articles or articles by specific critics. Otherwise, searching the complete Literature Resources from Gale better serves your needs.

**MLA Basic Search:** The basic search will look for your terms anywhere within a bibliographic record unless you specify name of work, person-about, or keyword. You may also limit by language, document type, date, and publication title, as well as to peer-review publications and recently added material. Note that searching MLA is very inexact because the database is looking through bibliographic citations and subject headings only. There are no abstracts.

**MLA Advanced Search:** The advanced search allows you to search for author—items by, collection title, genre, series title, ISBN, ISSN, publisher, and many more categories. Searches can also be limited to sources in JSTOR.

**MLA Subject Search:** The subject search looks for your terms only in the subject headings used by MLA. Following are the subjects for a typical article: Subject Terms: American literature; 1900-1999; novel; autobiographical novel; treatment of writer; the self; study example: Updike, John (1932- ): The Centaur (1963); Conroy, Frank (1936- ); Stop-Time (1967); Exley, Frederick (1930-1992); A Fan's Notes.

**MLA Directory of Periodicals:** This search locates such information as a journal's address, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, editors, frequency of publication, subscription rate, and submission requirements.

**Literature Resources from Gale Basic Search:** A basic search can be performed on a writer's name, the title of a work, the author of a critical work, a keyword, or the full text of available sources.

**Literature Resources from Gale Advanced Search:** The advanced search allows for author, critic, title, and keyword searches.

**Literature Resources from Gale Person Search:** This search allows for searching by name, gender, dates and places of birth and death, ethnicity, nationality, occupation, literary movement, genre, theme, and century.

**Other Resources:** You will find the full text of articles about literature, language, linguistics, and popular culture in Academic Search Premier, Humanities Full Text, Humanities International Index, JSTOR, and Project Muse; the full text of over 2,500 books (including more than 500 dealing with literature or language) in NetLibrary; and additional bibliographic citations in Essay and General Literature Index, LLBA, and World Shakespeare Bibliography. Many of these databases will index sources not included in MLA. Primary sources can be found in Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO), reference materials in Gale Virtual Reference Library and Oxford Reference Online, and etymological resources in Oxford English Dictionary. Additional useful resources can be found at [library.gc.cuny.edu/research/literature.html](http://library.gc.cuny.edu/research/literature.html).

**Additional Help:** Contact the reference desk (212-817-7077) on the second floor of the library or use the Ask a Librarian button on the library's Web site to ask questions about using MLA or any other library resource.

**Other Guides:** "Creating Accurate Search Statements," "Finding Book Reviews," guides to other databases, and more may be found at [library.gc.cuny.edu/guides/index.html](http://library.gc.cuny.edu/guides/index.html).