



Literature Resource Center

Search Tips

Gain direct access to literary criticism, journal articles, biographies, bibliographies and overviews of more than 130,000 authors and their works with this comprehensive online database. The following search tips will help you find information about novelists, poets, essayists, journalists and other writers from all genres and time periods.

HOW TO USE LITERATURE RESOURCE CENTER



Go to the *Literature Resource Center* URL via your Internet browser. At the home page, you may access any of these search options:

- Author Search
- Title Search
- Keyword Search
- Advanced Search
- Authors by Type Search
- Literary-Historical Timeline

The default search is the **Author Search**. In addition, you can also search the Modern Language Association (MLA) International Bibliography, a listing of more than 1.9 million bibliographic citations from 1926 to the present, if you are an MLA subscriber.

AUTHOR SEARCH



Available from the main page, **Author Search** allows you to search on any combination of the first, middle or last name of the author you wish to research. If you only know a portion of the author's last name, enter the letters you know, followed by an asterisk. For example, for author R.K. Narayan, you may enter Naray*.

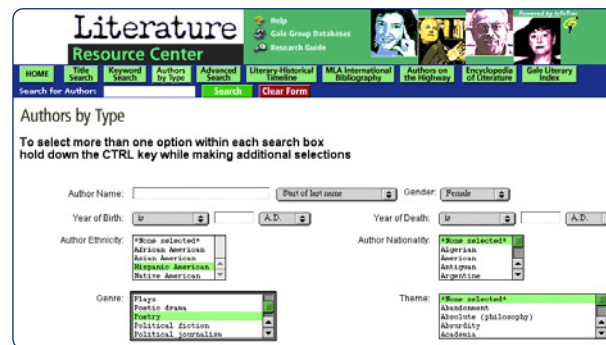
Click **Search**. If more than one author name matches your search you will see a list of possible matches. If there is one direct match, you'll go straight to search results. The **Current Results** list will organize the documents retrieved into one or more of the following categories: Biographies; Literary Criticism, Articles & Work Overviews; Bibliographies; Additional Resources; Literary-Historical Timeline; and MLA International Bibliography (if applicable). Click on any of these tabs to see the search results for that type of document. On this screen and on subsequent screens, the different search options are displayed as buttons across the horizontal bar at the top of the screen for quick and easy access. This format allows you to change your search method without having to return to the main screen. **Tip:** If you don't find results for your author, try **Advanced Search**.

TITLE SEARCH



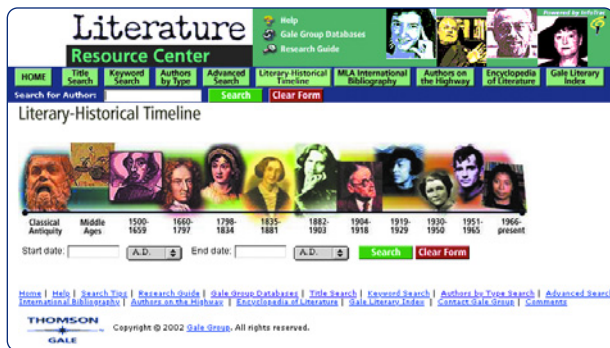
Title Search will help you find information in a subset of about 30,000 most-studied works. It is most useful if you don't remember the exact title of the work you are seeking. If you already know the title, use **Advanced Search**.

AUTHORS BY TYPE SEARCH



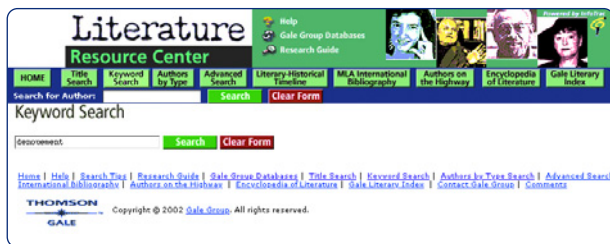
Selecting the **Authors by Type** option allows you to generate representative lists of authors who share characteristics such as Gender; Year of Birth and/or Death; Ethnicity; Nationality; Genre; Theme; and Literary movement/time period.

LITERARY-HISTORICAL TIMELINE SEARCH



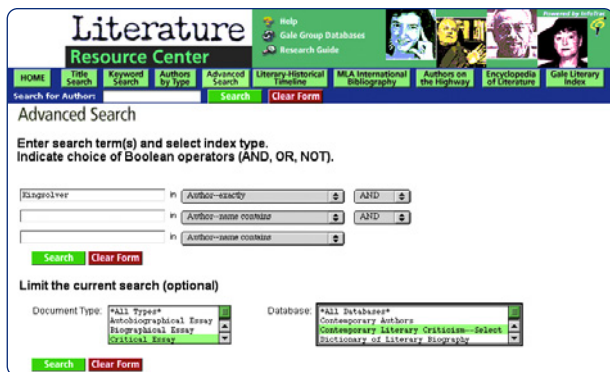
An interdisciplinary tool that provides social and historical context for the study of literature, this timeline gives researchers a sense of world events within an author's lifespan. When you open this tab from an **Author Search** or **Title Search**, you will note that *Literature Resource Center* has returned dates and events that fall within the selected author's lifetime.

KEYWORD SEARCH



The **Keyword Search** allows you to conduct a broad search against more targeted fields than an open full-text search would provide. For example, a search on “denouement” yields more than 500 biographical entries, with additional references listed in the Literary Criticism, Articles & Overviews; Additional Resources; and MLA International Bibliography tabs. In the Additional Resources tab, you'll find a definition of the term from Merriam-Webster's® Encyclopedia of Literature.

ADVANCED SEARCH



The **Advanced Search** allows you to search multiple fields simultaneously using Boolean operators. This provides a more advanced, broad document search.

Three search boxes with associated pull-down menus allow you to enter your search terms and select the appropriate fields. Select from Author – name contains, Author – last name starts, or Author – exactly; Critic; Fulltext; Keyword; and Title – any words, Title – all words, or Title – exact match. You can use

Boolean operators from the pull-down menu at right to establish “and,” “or” or “not” relationships between your search terms.

You can limit your search to certain types of documents by highlighting the desired document type(s) in the pull-down menu. Select from the following: All Types; Autobiographical Essay; Biographical Essay; Critical Essay; Definition; Interview; Topical Essay; Web site List; or Work Overview.

You can also search the database(s) of your choice by highlighting any of those in the pull-down menu. The default will search all databases, but you may also choose to limit your search to one or any combination of these databases: *Contemporary Authors*®, *Contemporary Literary Criticism*® – *Select*, *Dictionary of Literary Biography*®; full-text journals; and *Literature Resource Center*. You may also select from any of the following optional modules if they are part of your subscription: *MLA International Bibliography*, *Scribner Writers Series*, *Twain's English Authors*, *Twain's U.S. Authors* or *Twain's World Authors*.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



From this tab you can extend your research to explore Web sites on an author's life and works; Themes; Autobiographical Essays; Interviews; related terms in Merriam-Webster's® Encyclopedia of Literature; and Topical Essays. Web sites is the default display. From anywhere within *Literature Resource Center*, you can access Merriam-Webster's® Encyclopedia of Literature to help define unfamiliar literary terms and *Gale's Literary Index* to identify Thomson Gale print sources in which a given author appears. You may access help or additional search tips at any time throughout your search.

If you require further assistance with *Literature Resource Center*, please contact your librarian.



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