

# Northeast Lakeview College LRC

## Resource Guide – Literary Criticism

[www.alamo.edu/nlc/library](http://www.alamo.edu/nlc/library)

### GETTING STARTED USING THE ONLINE CATALOG – Books & More!

<http://library.alamo.edu/search/X>

Use the Online Catalog to find materials owned by NLC, SAC, PAC, SPC, and NWV. You can identify e-books, physical books, periodical titles, media items, and government documents.

By doing an **ADVANCED KEYWORD** search, you can specify a specific college, a specific type of material, or a combination of criteria by using **BOOLEAN** connectors *AND*, *OR*, and *AND NOT*.

When doing literary criticism research, use your author's name as your **subject**.

Use **Subject:** to search within the **subject** field only. This will generally help to narrow your search results by producing fewer matches, for example:

faulkner, william limited to Northeast Lakeview College – 71 results

Subject: faulkner, william limited to Northeast Lakeview College - 50 results

Use **AND** to narrow your search:

Subject: faulkner, william *AND* rose

Subject: faulkner, william *AND* criticism

Subject: faulkner, william *AND* women

Multiple words not in quotes are searched first as a **phrase**. Results are shown with any phrase matches and then with the words searched individually but “*ANDed*” together. To narrow your search to only a specific phrase, enclose it in quotation marks, for example:

*barn burning* is a different search than “*barn burning*”

## GETTING STARTED USING ELECTRONIC DATABASES – Articles & More!

[http://www.alamo.edu/nlc/library/t\\_Electronic%20Databases.htm](http://www.alamo.edu/nlc/library/t_Electronic%20Databases.htm)

Use the databases that are most appropriate for your subject. Some databases are broad and cross field disciplines, whereas others are more focused on a particular subject area. Click on the word **Literature** to take you to the list of databases that are most appropriate for literary criticism.

### Literature Resource Center

Use **Advanced Search** interfaces when they are available. To search for a particular author, use the “Author-name contains” field. Use the BOOLEAN connectors to further refine your search. Other limiters such as content type (Critical Essay, etc.) are also available.

The screenshot shows the Literature Resource Center website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for [Bookmark](#), [Dictionaries](#), [Title List](#), [Help](#), [Tips](#), and [Guided Tour](#). Below this is a menu with [Basic Search](#), [Advanced Search](#), [Person Search](#), [Works Search](#), and [Gale Literary Index](#). The main content area displays "Currently searching Literature Resource Center with 1,214,705 documents." The "Advanced Search" section includes a form with three rows of search criteria:
 

- Row 1: Index "Person-By or About (pz) \*" with the term "Gaines" and a "Browse" link.
- Row 2: Connector "And" with index "Name Of Work (w0) \*" and the term "Sky is Gray" and a "Browse" link.
- Row 3: Connector "And" with index "Person-By or About (pz) \*" and an empty search box with a "Browse" link.

 Below the form are buttons for "Add a Row", "Search", and "Clear". A "limit results:" section has a checkbox for "to peer-reviewed publications".

### MLA International Bibliography

MLA is THE index for literary topics, but keep in mind that most of it is not fulltext. See the section at the bottom of this guide to learn how to find out if something is fulltext in another database.

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface for the MLA International Bibliography. The top navigation bar includes [New Search](#), [Thesaurus](#), [MLA Directory of Periodicals](#), [Names as Subjects](#), and [More](#). There are also links for [Sign In to My EBSCOhost](#), [Folder](#), and [New Features!](#). The search area shows "Searching: **MLA International Bibliography**" with a "Choose Databases >" link and a "NORTHEAST" label. The search criteria are:
 

- Search term: "Cisneros, Sandra" in the "SU Subjects-All" field.
- Connector: "and" with search term "house on mango street" in the "Select a Field (optional)" field.
- Connector: "and" with an empty search box in the "Select a Field (optional)" field.

 There are "Search" and "Clear" buttons. Below the search area are links for [Basic Search](#), [Advanced Search](#), [Visual Search](#), [Search History/Alerts](#), and [Preferences >](#).

### Literary Reference Center

This fulltext database combines information from major reference works, books, literary journals, and other sources. To search for a particular author, use the “SU Subjects” field not the “AU Author” field. The **Advanced Search** allows you to limit by document type (Biographies, Literary Criticism, etc.) and many other criteria. Most of your literary papers will require criticisms.

### Literature Criticism Online

This database includes a variety of content originally published in print format only. Several Gale publications are included, such as Contemporary Literary Criticism, Poetry Criticism, Short Story Criticism, and more. The **Advanced Search** tab allows you to connect up to three pieces of information with the Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT. Note that the default settings will search the Full Text; change this to a more specific setting such as Named Author or Named Work for more specific results. Alternatively, click on the tabs to directly **Browse Authors** or **Browse Works**.

The results retain the look of the print originals, and can be also be viewed/printed in PDF format.

The screenshot shows a digital library interface. On the left is a 'Document View' sidebar with options: Reformat for Reading, Print/View PDF, Email this Document, Revise Search, Search History, and Back to Results. The main content area displays the title 'Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller' from 'Contemporary Literary Criticism', edited by Janet Witalec, volume 179, page D244. It includes navigation links: 'Inside this Volume', 'Inside this Entry', and 'Titles Discussed'. Below the title, there is a 'Go to page' field with '144' and a 'GO' button, followed by 'Next' and 'Now viewing pages 144-145 of 144-244'. The main text area shows the title 'Death of a Salesman' by Arthur Miller, followed by a biographical note and an 'INTRODUCTION' section. The biographical note describes Miller as an American playwright, essayist, novelist, screenwriter, short story writer, nonfiction writer, travel writer, children's writer, and autobiographer. The introduction section begins with 'spends most of his time chasing women and drinking. Willy is extremely critical of his sons' lack of direction and, in turn, Biff and Hap regard him as ineffectual and worry that he is becoming senile in his old age. After talking to Linda about Biff's failure to find a career, Willy recalls his son's success as a football star and is soon reminded of his own marital infidelities with a woman he met on the road. Willy eventually shifts focus to criticizing Hap's spending habits and becomes upset. His neighbor Charlie calms him down and the two men play a game of cards. After Charlie leaves, Willy reminisces about his brother Ben, who left for Africa to

## FINDING FULLTEXT USING A TO Z ONLINE JOURNAL LOCATOR

If fulltext is not available for a particular article, use the A to Z Journal Locator to find out if it is fulltext in another database.

<https://proxy.nlc.alamo.edu:4443/login?url=http://atoz.ebsco.com/Search.asp?id=8525>

## ONLINE RESOURCES

A wealth of literary information is available online, but be sure to evaluate the quality of any online source before using it. Check out our list of helpful free websites at:

[http://www.alamo.edu/nlc/library/t\\_links.html#literature](http://www.alamo.edu/nlc/library/t_links.html#literature)