The Ritz Library has many sources to help you with studying Shakespeare's writings. Listed below are books shelved in the Reference collection at the Library. If you have any questions regarding these sources please ask the librarian on duty at the Reference Desk for assistance.

Reference Books

The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare (Ref. 822.33 D C178c) – Covers major themes of plays, poetry, and the history of Shakespeare’s time.

The Oxford Companion to Shakespeare (Ref. 822.33 D O98) – A single-volume encyclopedia defining everything Shakespeare.

Shakespeare for Students (Ref. 822.33 D S527 vols. 1-3) – A “best bet” for criticism of plays.

Shakespeare’s Characters for Students (Ref. 822.33 G S4265) – Discusses characters in detail.

Shakespeare’s World and Work (Ref. 822.33 G S527 vols. 1-3) – A “best bet” for the history of Shakespeare’s works.

All Things Shakespeare (Ref. 822.33 G O52) – A two-volume dictionary of physical objects and abstract concepts. Note: You will not find individual plays or characters. Use the books listed above.

Electronic Online Databases

Literature Criticism Online – Type your terms into the search box, separating each with the word and. In the box below marked Limit the Results, scroll down in the By Series list and click on Shakespeare Criticism. Click on the Search button.

Literature Resource Center – Type in search terms separated with the word and, for example, shakespeare and macbeth. When the list comes up, click the tab marked Literary Criticism. For sonnets, type in the word sonnet followed by the number, for example, shakespeare and sonnet 18.

Literary Reference Center – Use multiple boxes on this search page. Type shakespeare in the first box, then the name of the work in the box below. Mark off Full Text down below. Click the button marked Search. The search also works for sonnets, provided you follow the word sonnet with the number, for example, shakespeare and sonnet 18.