If you have any questions regarding these sources please ask the librarian on duty at the Reference Desk for assistance.

Reference Books

Masterplots: Revised 2nd Edition (Ref. 803 M423p) – The same features as above. Use the index of the last volume to find a particular title.

Masterplots II: Drama Series (Ref. 803 M423pd) – An excellent source for plays. Use the index of the last volume to find a specific work.

Masterplots II: Poetry Series (Ref. 803 M423pp) – Themes and their meanings in selected poems. All poems are listed alphabetically by title.

Contemporary Literary Criticism (CLC) (Ref. 809 C761) – The largest source for literary criticism. Please note that this set does not cover authors who died before 1960.

Poetry Criticism (Ref. 809.1 P745) – Critical essays on poets from nearly any era. Search the title or author of a poem in the index of the last volume.

Drama Criticism (Ref. 809.2 D763) – Critical essays on playwrights from nearly any era. Search title or author of a play in the index of the last volume.

Short Story Criticism (SSC) (Ref. 809.31 S559) – Critical essays on short stories and their authors. Search the title or author in the index of the last volume.

Online Full-text Databases

Literature Criticism Online – Type in your search terms, separating them with the word and, for example, shakespeare and macbeth. Click the Search button.

Literary Reference Center – Use multiple boxes, for example, type hawthorne in one box, then young goodman brown in the one below. Below the area for Document Types, find the Full Text function and click in the box next to it. Click the Search button above.

Literature Resource Center – As with Literature Criticism Online, enter your search terms, separated by the word and. Click in the box for documents with full text. Click the Search button.