

Research Guide

LITERATURE – World Literature

George Mason University Libraries

This Guide lists a few of the basic reference resources in World Literature -- excluding British and American literature -- available to researchers at the Fenwick Library. Literatures relevant to the Department of Modern and Classical Languages are given special attention here. Two related research guides, and “**Literature – Literary Criticism**,” and “**Literature – English & American**” may also contain information of interest.

The Guide is divided into the following broad categories:

World Literature (General)

Classical Literature

Literatures of Europe

French, German, Russian, Spanish

Literatures of the Middle East, Asia, and Africa

Library of Congress

Call Number Ranges

Subject Headings

These categories may, as appropriate, be further subdivided into the following types of resources:

research guides

encyclopedias and handbooks

bio-bibliography

indexes/abstracts and bibliographies

language dictionaries

large collections of texts

additional resources (e.g., websites)

All items are in the Fenwick Reference Department unless otherwise noted. Within each subsection titles are usually listed in call number order. Call numbers for specific works will indicate general classification ranges where related materials may be found. (Capitalization of titles not in English follows that found in the online catalog; diacritics have not been used.)

Note that sources in World Literature (General) will probably also cover subjects in the other categories (e.g., the *MLA Bibliography* indexes literature in general – regardless of specific time period or geographic area).

Also see the Research Guide, “**Literature – Literary Criticism**,” accessible from the University Libraries’ homepage under “Help with Research – Research Guides (in PDF format).”

WORLD LITERATURE (General)

Research Guides (World)

Problems in Literary Research: A Guide to Selected Reference Works

PN523 .K4 1997

Key Sources in Comparative and World Literature

PN523 .T56 [1982]

Art of Literary Research [Altick]

PR56 .A68 1993 (Fenwick Stacks)

Encyclopedias and Handbooks (World)

General

Glossary of Literary Terms [Abrams]
PN41 .A184 1993

Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia
PN41 .B4 1996 (Reference Desk)

Cassell's Encyclopaedia of World Literature
PN41 .C3 1973

Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory [Cuddon]
PN41 .C83 1991

Handbook to Literature [Harmon & Holman]
PN41 .H355 1996 (Reference Desk)

Kindlers Literatur Lexikon im dtv
PN41 .K53 1974 (Fenwick Stacks)

Cyclopedia of Literary Characters
PN44 .M3 1998

Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory & Criticism
PN81 .J554 1994; also available electronically

Cyclopedia of World Authors
PN451 .M36 1997

Reference Guide to World Literature
PN524 .R44 1995

Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century
PN771 .E5 1999

Dictionary of Foreign Quotations
PN6080 .C54 [1980]

Specialized

Encyclopedia of Folklore and Literature
PN41 .E48 1998

Encyclopedia of the Novel
PN41 .E487 1998

Encyclopedia of Allegorical Literature
PN56 .A5 L44 1996

Encyclopedia of Apocalyptic Literature
PN56 .A69 Z56 1996

Encyclopedia of Traditional Epics
PN56 .E65 E64 1994

Encyclopedia of Utopian Literature
PN56 .U8 S66 1995

Encyclopedia of Literary Translation into English
PN241 .E56 2000

Encyclopedia of the Essay
PN6141 .E53 1997; also a NetLibrary e-book

Encyclopedia of Rhetoric
PN172 .E52 2001

New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics
PN1021 .N39 1993

McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of World Drama
PN1625 .M3 1984

World Encyclopedia of Contemporary Theatre
PN1861 .W67 1994

Encyclopedia of Satirical Literature
PN6149 .S2 S56 1996

Encyclopedia of Life Writing
PR756 .B56 E53 2001

Bio-bibliography (World)

Contemporary Authors [CA]

Available electronically via the Library's homepage under "Databases"

Bio-bibliographical information on over 90,000 authors in the fields of fiction, poetry, drama, motion pictures, and television as well as journalism and general non-fiction.

Dictionary of Literary Biography [DLB]

PS21 .D48 [continuing series] (Literary Criticism Area)

Each volume in the series is devoted to a broad topic, period, or genre; contains bio-bibliographic information on the authors covered (including historians, journalists, and publishers); a cumulative index for the set is found at the end of each volume, and all the titles in the series are listed at the front of each volume; in the online catalog each volume is treated as a separate work with its own subject headings.

Indexes/Abstracts and Bibliographies (World)

MLA [International] Bibliography

1963 – present; Available electronically via the Library's homepage under "Databases"

1921 – present; Available in paper, P1 .M24 (Reference Indexes)

Indexes books, journal articles, proceedings, series, edited collections, and dissertations on modern languages and literatures, folklore, and linguistics.

Year's Work in Modern Language Studies [YWMLS]

PB1 .Y4 (Fenwick Stacks) [v. 22 (1960) – most recent]

Critical bibliography of scholarly work in the fields of Medieval and Neo-Latin, Romance, Celtic, Germanic, Scandinavian, and Slavonic languages and literatures; each field is divided into a section on language and one or more on literature; with name and subject indexes.

Additional Resources (World)

Websites

Voice of the Shuttle [Alan Liu, UC Santa Barbara]

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/index-netscape.asp>

This site provides a structured and briefly annotated guide to humanities and humanities-related resources on the Internet.

Electronic Full-Text Journals

Collections of electronic full-text journals (like JSTOR, Project Muse, Cambridge Online Journals, and Oxford University Press Journals) can be very helpful in identifying relevant articles. These collections usually provide the capability both of browsing single issues and of searching journals individually, collectively, or in groups. Access to individual journals – and the most complete and current information on the Library's holdings – can be found at the Library's homepage <<http://library.gmu.edu/>> under "E-Journal Finder." (The University Libraries may also have paper subscriptions to some of these titles.) Note, however, that the appearance of the most recent issue of some electronic titles may lag behind that of their print counterparts.

Collections of electronic full-text journals are limited both in the number of titles represented and in the time coverage for those journals. *Indexes* which give only bibliographic citations (or abstracts) -- rather than full-text -- cover more journal titles for greater periods of time and should also be searched.

CLASSICAL LITERATURE

Encyclopedias and Handbooks (Classical Languages)

Oxford Companion to Classical Literature

PA 31 .H69 1989

See also: **Oxford Classical Dictionary**, DE5 .O9 1996 (Reference Desk); **Kleine Pauly: Lexikon der Antike**, DE5 .K5 [1964-75]; **Neue Pauly: Enzyklopadie der Antike** DE5 .N48 1996; **Brill's New Pauly: Encyclopaedia of the Ancient World**, DE5 .N4813 2002.

Bio-bibliography (Classical Languages)

Ancient Writers: Greece and Rome

PA3002 .A5 1982

Covers up to the 4th century CE; extensive biographical/critical articles with bibliographies.

Indexes/Abstracts and Bibliographies (Classical Languages)

Annee philologique

v. 43 (1972) – most recent; PA29 .A6

v. 1 (1924) – v. 44 (1973); Fenwick Periodicals – Microfiche

International, classified bibliography covering all aspects of classical studies, including literature, language, antiquities, history, law, philosophy, and science and technology; *Database of Classical Bibliography* on CD-ROM (available at Fenwick Library Reference) cumulates the *Annee philologique* for the period 1976-87.

See *MLA [International] Bibliography* at this heading under **World Literature (General)**, above.

Language Dictionaries (Classical Languages)

Greek-English Lexicon [Liddell & Scott]

PA445 .E5 L6 1996 [revised edition]

Oxford Latin Dictionary

PA2365 .E5 O9 1982

Mediae Latinitatis lexicon minus: ... a medieval Latin-French/English dictionary [Niermeyer]

PA2893.F7 N54 1997

Large Collections of Texts (Classical Languages)

Corpus inscriptionum latinarum [CIL]

CN530 .C6 1981 (Fenwick Periodicals – Microfiche)

Systematic compilation of Latin inscriptions from throughout the Roman world; this microfiche edition reproduces the 16 volumes published between 1869 and 1955.

Thesaurus linguae Graecae [TLG]

Fenwick Reference – CD-ROM

Digital library of all ancient Greek texts from Homer to 600 CE with some additional texts up to 1453 CE.

Additional Sources (Classical Languages)

Websites

Perseus Digital Library [Gregory Crane, Tufts University]

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/>

The Classics Collection contains literary texts (and translations), secondary literature, art and archaeological images, maps, and reference works related to Greek and Roman antiquity.

MODERN LITERATURES OF EUROPE

EUROPE (GENERAL)

Encyclopedias and Handbooks (Europe-General)

Columbia Guide to the Literatures of Eastern Europe since 1945

PN849.E9 S444 2003

Bio-bibliography (Europe-General)

Encyclopedia of Continental Women Writers

PN 481 .E5 1991

European Writers

PN501 .E9 1983

Covers the Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century; extensive biographical/critical articles with bibliographies; index volume cumulates authors, titles, and subjects.

Additional Resources (Europe-General)

Websites

Humbul Humanities Hub [a collaboration of over 60 British educational organizations]

<http://www.humbul.ac.uk>

A catalog of online humanities resources by subject.

European Reading Room [Library of Congress]

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/european/>

WESS Web [Western European Studies Section, Association of College and Research Libraries]

<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/wess/index.html>

FRENCH

Encyclopedias and Handbooks (French)

Manuel bibliographique des etudes litteraires ...

PN544 .B48x [1982]

Dictionnaire des litteratures de langue francaise

PQ41 .B4 1984

Guide to French Literature

PQ41 .L48 1992

New Oxford Companion to Literature in French

PQ41 .N49 1995 (Reference Desk)

Feminist Encyclopedia of French Literature

PQ149 .F47 1999

Bio-bibliography (French)

See *Contemporary Authors* and *Dictionary of Literary Biography* at this heading under **World Literature (General)** above, and *European Writers* under **Europe (General)** above.

French Women Writers: A Bio-Bibliographical Source Book

PQ149 .F73 1991

Indexes/Abstracts and Bibliographies (French)

See *MLA [International] Bibliography* and *Year's Work in Modern Language Studies [YWMLS]* at this heading under **World Literature (General)**, above.

Critical Bibliography of French Literature

PQ103 .C3 [1947-85]

French 17 / Bibliography of French Seventeenth Century Studies

PQ245 .M6x <year> [1953 – continuing]

In addition to literary history and criticism, the descriptive bibliography covers: bibliography, linguistics, and book history; artistic, political, and social background; and philosophy, science, and religion.

French XX Bibliography

PQ306 .F7 [1949 – continuing]

“Critical and Biographical References for the Study of French Literature since 1885”.

Language Dictionaries (French)

Trésor de la langue française: dictionnaire de la langue du XIXe et du XXe siècle (1789-1960)

PC2625 .I6 [1971-94]

General bilingual English/French dictionaries will be found at

PC2640 ...

Large Collections of Texts (French)

ARTFL

Available electronically via the Library's homepage under "Databases"

The American and French Research on the Treasury of the French Language Project contains approximately 2,000 French texts (primarily from the 18th through 20th centuries) as well as reference works and subject bibliographies.

Additional Resources (French)

Websites

Ressources Internet Francophones [Lehman College, City University of New York]

<http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/depts/langlit/french/>

TennesseeBob's Famous French Links [Bob Peckham, University of Tennessee at Martin]

<http://www.utm.edu/departments/french/french.html>

GERMAN

Encyclopedias and Handbooks (German)

Oxford Companion to German Literature

PT41 .G3 1997 (Reference Desk)

Reallexikon der deutschen Literaturgeschichte

PT41 .R42 [1955-88]

Covers literary periods, genres, themes, and terms; no coverage of individual authors or literary works.

Geschichte der deutschen Literatur von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart [Boor & Newald]

PT85 .B64 [1960 – ; incomplete] (Fenwick Stacks)

Deutsche Literaturgeschichte [Borries]

PT85 .D368 1991 (Fenwick Stacks)

Encyclopedia of German Literature

PT91 .E53 2000

Bio-bibliography (German)

See *Contemporary Authors* and *Dictionary of Literary Biography* at this heading under **World Literature (General)** above, and *European Writers* under **Europe (General)** above.

Deutsche Literatur des Mittelalters: Verfasserlexikon

PT187 .D45x [1977-92]

Autorenlexikon deutschsprachiger Literatur des 20. Jahrhunderts

PT401 .A98 1984

Indexes/Abstracts and Bibliographies (German)

See *MLA [International] Bibliography* and *Year's Work in Modern Language Studies [YWMLS]* at this heading under **World Literature (General)**, above.

Germanistik

PF3062 .G4 (Reference – Indexes) [v. 33 (1991/2) – most recent]

International bibliography of books, articles, and parts of books dealing with German literature.

Bibliographie der deutschen Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft

PT85 .B5 [v. 1 (1945/53) – most recent]

Comprehensive bibliography of German language and literature, arranged principally by literary period.

Deutsche Literatur

PT401 .D44 [1981 – continuing]

Aims to provide a bibliography of primary and secondary works for the whole of German literature.

Arbitrium: Zeitschrift fuer Rezensionen zur germanistischen Literaturwissenschaft

Fenwick Periodicals [v. 14 (1996) – most recent]

Language Dictionaries (German)

Grosse Worterbuch der deutschen Sprache ... [Duden]

PF3625 .G75 [1976-81]

General bilingual English/German dictionaries will be found at
PF3640 ...

Illustriertes Lexikon der deutschen Umgangssprache

PF3815 .K87 [1982-4]

Large Collections of Texts (German)

Bibliothek der deutschen Literatur : Bibliographie und Register

PT85 .F74 1999

Author/title index to the microfiche edition of the *Bibliothek der deutschen Literatur*, a large microform set covering German literature (as well as philosophy, theology, musicology, and dramaturgy) from 1650 to 1900; copies of the microform set itself are located at the Library of Congress, Johns Hopkins, University of Virginia, University of Maryland, Georgetown University.

Additional Resources (German)

Websites

Germanistik im Internet [Institut fur Germanistik, Universitat Erlangen-Nurnberg]

<http://www.erlangerliste.uni-erlangen.de/liste.html>

RUSSIAN

Research Guides (Russian)

Slavic Studies: A Guide to Bibliographies, Encyclopedias, and Handbooks

DJK27 .S63 1993

Reference Guide to Russian Literature

PG2940 .R44 1998

Encyclopedias and Handbooks (Russian)

Bolshaia sovetskaia entsiklopediia

AE55 .B6 [1970-78]

Translated into English as the *Great Soviet Encyclopedia* (AE55 .B6xP); see also *Malaia sovetskaia entsiklopediia* (AE55 .M34 [1958-60] Fenwick Stacks).

Handbook of Russian Literature

PG2940 .H29 1985

Cambridge History of Russian Literature

PG2951 .C36 1992 (Fenwick Stacks)

Bio-bibliography (Russian)

See *Contemporary Authors* and *Dictionary of Literary Biography* at this heading under **World Literature (General)** above, and *European Writers* under **Europe (General)** above.

Indexes/Abstracts and Bibliographies (Russian)

See *MLA [International] Bibliography* and *Year's Work in Modern Language Studies [YWMLS]* at this heading under **World Literature (General)**, above.

Language Dictionaries (Russian)

General bilingual English/Russian dictionaries will be found at
PG2640 ...

SPANISH

Research Guides (Spanish)

Latin America and the Caribbean: A Critical Guide to Research Sources

F1408 .L38 1992

Guide to Reference Works for the Study of the Spanish Language and Literature and Spanish American Literature

PC4071 .W66 1997

Manual de literatura española

PQ6032. P4 [1980-91] (Fenwick Stacks)

Encyclopedias and Handbooks (Spanish)

Enciclopedia Hispanica

AE61 .E522 1992

Enciclopedia universal ilustrada europeo-americana

AE61 .E6 [1908-30; 1935-74]

Dictionary of Literature of the Iberian Peninsula

PN849 .S6 D54 1993

Diccionario de literatura española

PQ6006 .D5 1972

Oxford Companion to Spanish Literature

PQ6006 .O95 [1978] (Reference Desk)

Historia general de las literaturas hispanicas

PQ6032 .D5 [1949-68]

Feminist Encyclopedia of Spanish Literature

PQ6055 .F46 2002

Cambridge History of Latin American Literature

PQ7081 .A1 C35 1996

Handbook of Latin American Literature

PQ7081.A1 .H36 1987

Encyclopedia of Latin American Literature

PQ7081 .A1 E56 1997; also available as a netLibrary e-book

Bio-bibliography (Spanish)

See *Contemporary Authors* and *Dictionary of Literary Biography* at this heading under **World Literature (General)** above, and *European Writers under Europe (General)* above.

Latin American Writers

PQ7081 .A1 L37 ...

Indexes/Abstracts and Bibliographies (Spanish)

See *MLA [International] Bibliography* and *Year's Work in Modern Language Studies* [YWMLS] at this heading under **World Literature (General)**, above.

Manual bibliografico de estudios espanoles

DP17 .G66x [1976]

Bibliografia de la literatura hispanica

Z2691 .S5 [1960-72]

Ensayo de una biblioteca espanola de libros raros y curiosos

Z2681 .G3 E6 [1968]

Handbook of Latin American Studies [HLAS]

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/hlas/>

Language Dictionaries (Spanish)

Diccionario de la lengua espanola

PC4625 .A3 1984

General bilingual English/Spanish dictionaries will be found at

PC4640 ...

Diccionario historico de la lengua espanola

PC4761 .A3 D5 [1960-]

Large Collections of Texts (Spanish)

Teatro espanol del siglo de oro [TESO]

Available electronically via the Library's homepage under "Databases"

Approximately 800 full-text plays by 16 dramatists from 16th and 17th century Spain; see also **Spanish Drama of the Golden Age** (PQ6217 .A2 R4x Fenwick Periodicals – Microfilm)

Biblioteca de autores espanoles desde la formacion del lenguaje hasta nuestros dias

PQ6171 .A2 B5 ... [1944-1968; incomplete]

Based on an older work, this set includes Spanish authors up to the middle of the nineteenth century and a continuation of that collection; the writers covered are listed individually in the online catalog; vol. 71 is a general index to the preceding volumes.

Additional Sources (Spanish)

Specialized Literary Criticism

Hispanic Literature Criticism

PQ6039 .H5 1994

Latin American Short Story

PQ7082 .S5 B36 1992

Websites

Hispanic Reading Room [Library of Congress]

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/>

Literatura - Hispana [Fundacion Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes]
<http://cervantesvirtual.com/> under "Secciones - Bibliotecas del mundo"
Spanish Page [George Mason University]
<http://www.gmu.edu/departments/fld/SPANISH/sp-sites.htm>

LITERATURES OF THE MIDDLE EAST, ASIA, AND AFRICA

Encyclopedias and Handbooks (Middle East, Asia, Africa)

General

Penguin Companion to Classical, Oriental & African Literature

PA31 .P4 [1969]

Dictionary of Oriental Literatures

PJ31 .D5 [1974]

Guide to Eastern Literatures

PJ307 .G8 [1971]

Guide to Oriental Classics

PJ307 .G85 1989

Middle East

History of Jewish Literature

PJ5008 .Z5 H5 [1972-8]

Encyclopedia of Arabic Literature

PJ7510 .E53 1998

Cambridge History of Arabic Literature [multi-volume set]

To find individual titles in this set, search the online catalog under the series name.

Asia

Encyclopedia Japonica

AE35.2 .E52 1967[-72]

Encyclopedia of Indian Literature

PK2902 .E53 1987

Dawn to the West: Japanese Literature of the Modern Era

PL726.55 K39 [1984 &1998] (Fenwick Stacks)

Princeton Companion to Classical Japanese Literature

PL726.1 .M495 1985

Guide to Japanese Poetry

PL782 .E3 R5 1984

Guide to Japanese Drama

PL782 .E5 P76 1984

Guide to Japanese Prose

PL782 .E8 M37 1984

Indiana Companion to Traditional Chinese Literature

PL2264 .I64 1986

Guide to Chinese Prose

PL2264 .P34 [1984]

Columbia History of Chinese Literature

PL2265 .C65 2001

Guide to Chinese Poetry and Drama

PL2307 .L9 1984

Southeast Asian Languages and Literatures: A Bibliographic Guide

PL3509 .S68 1996

Africa

Encyclopedia of African Literature

PL8010 .E63 2002

New Reader's Guide to African Literature

PN849 .A35 Z44 1983

Bio-bibliography (Middle East, Asia, Africa)

See *Contemporary Authors* and *Dictionary of Literary Biography* at this heading under **World Literature (General)** above, and *European Writers* under **Europe (General)** above.

Modern Japanese Novelists: A Biographical Dictionary

PL747.55 .L48 1993

African Writers

PL8010 .A453 1997

Indexes/Abstracts and Bibliographies (Middle East, Asia, Africa)

See *MLA [International] Bibliography* at this heading under **World Literature (General)**, above.

Index Islamicus

Fenwick Reference – CD-ROM

Bibliography of publications (books, articles, edited works, book reviews) on all aspects of Islam, the Middle East, and the Muslim world; cd-rom covers the period 1906 – 1999; a print index covers the period 1665 –1905 (BP166.2.I6 1665-1905 – Reference-Indexes).

Language Dictionaries (Middle East, Asia, Africa)

General bilingual English/Arabic dictionaries will be found at
PJ6640 ...

General bilingual English/Japanese dictionaries will be found at
PL679 ...

General bilingual English/Chinese dictionaries will be found at
PL1455 ...

Zhong wen da ci dian [Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Chinese Language]

PL1420 .C57 1973

Additional Sources (Middle East, Asia, Africa)

Websites

African & Middle Eastern Reading Room [Library of Congress]

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/amed/>

Asian Reading Room [Library of Congress]

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/asian/>

Library of Congress Call Number Ranges in Language & Literature

Below is a simplified version of the Library of Congress's Call Number Classification for the languages and literatures of the world. (Languages and literatures of special interest to the Department of Modern and Classical Languages have been singled out.) Notice that the Library of Congress system places the *languages* (e.g., dictionaries, grammars) of the major Western European countries in one Call Number classification and their *literatures* (e.g., fiction, poetry, drama) in another.

GR	Folklore		
P	Philology & Linguistics (General)		
PA	Classical Languages and Literature		
	PA 2001-2915	Latin Philology & Literature	
	PA 6000-6971	Roman Literature	
PB	Modern Languages, Celtic		
PC	Romance Languages		
	PC 1001-1977	Italian Language	
	PC 2001-3761	French Language	
	PC 4001-4977	Spanish Language	
PD	Germanic & Scandinavian Languages		
PE	English Language		
PF	West Germanic Languages		
	PF 3001-5999	German Language	
PG	Slavic, Baltic, Albanian		
	PG 2001-2826	Russian Language	
	PG 2900-(3698)	Russian Literature	
PH	Uralic, Basque (including Finnish, Hungarian)		
PJ	Oriental Languages & Literatures (including Arabic, Hebrew)		
	PJ 6001-8517	Arabic	
PK	Indo-Iranian Languages & Literatures (including Persian & languages of the Indian subcontinent)		
PL	Languages & Literatures of East Asia, Africa, Oceania		
	PL 501- 889	Japanese	
	PL 1001-3208	Chinese	
PM	Hyperborean, Indian, Artificial Languages		
PN	Literature (General)		
	PN 1600-3307	Drama (including television, motion pictures, theater)	
PQ	Romance Literatures		
	PQ 1-3999	French Literature	
	PQ 4001-5999	Italian Literature	
	PQ 6001-8929	Spanish Literature	
		6001-6168	History and Criticism
		6170-6269	Literature Collections
		6271-6726	Individual Authors
		7000-7011	Spain
		7100-8560	Latin America
PR	English Literature		
PS	American Literature		
PT	Germanic Literatures		
	PT 1-4897	German Literature	
PZ	Fiction & Juvenile Belles Lettres		

Selected Library of Congress Subject Headings in Literature

Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) are used by almost all library catalogs to provide topical access to their holdings. The fullest description of the structure and use of these subject headings will be found in the “red books,” the **Library of Congress Subject Headings** (Z695 .L695 Reference Desk). In addition to providing a list of the standard subject headings, LCSH also gives cross-references from non-authorized terms to an authorized heading (**USE**) as well as to broader terms (**BT**), narrower terms (**NT**), related terms (**RT**), and entire groups of related headings (**SA** for ‘see also’).

Note that a main subject heading may be further subdivided by one or more of the following:

- an aspect of the subject (e.g., -- Criticism and Interpretation; -- History)
- a place (e.g., -- Europe; -- France -- Paris)
- a time period (e.g., -- 16th Century; -- To 1500)
- the item's "form" (e.g., -- Bio-bibliography; -- Dictionaries; -- Encyclopedias)

For example:

Criticism -- Spain -- History -- 18th Century -- Congresses
Proust, Marcel, 1871-1922 -- Criticism and Interpretation -- Handbooks, Manuals, etc.

A model for a literary subject heading and many of its possible subdivisions will be found under *English Literature* in the **Library of Congress Subject Headings**, mentioned above.

Given below are a *few* of the *many* kinds of Library of Congress Subject Headings related to literature. The examples are meant to suggest starting points for doing subject searches in library catalogs.

• **Authors or Groups of Authors**

An individual writer can be searched both as an author (for works *by* the individual) and as a *subject* (for works *about* the individual). Useful subdivisions under an author as subject include:

-- Bibliography; -- Biography; -- Criticism and Interpretation; -- <*title of a work*>

For example:

Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de, 1547-1616 -- Biography
Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von, 1749-1832. Faust
Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616 -- Criticism and Interpretation -- History -- 20th Century -- Congresses

Writers can also be grouped together in various ways. These groups are usually categorized with a "*qualifier*" (usually a linguistic, national, ethnic, regional, or period term).

For example:

Authors, <i>European</i> --	<u>but note:</u>
Dramatists, <i>French</i> --	Women Authors, <i>German</i> --
Novelists, <i>Russian</i> --	Women Novelists, <i>French</i> --
Poets, <i>Persian</i> --	

• **"Literature" and General Types of Literature**

"Literature" itself (in the sense of the topic in general) as well as general types of literature can serve as subject headings. Again, a "*qualifier*" (usually a linguistic, national, ethnic, regional, or period term) is usually used to modify the subject.

For example:

Literature --
Literature, *Comparative* --
Literature, *Medieval* --
Literature, *Modern* --
Literature, *Renaissance* --

general types:

Drama --
Fiction --
Poetry --

but note:

Children's Literature --
Classical Literature --
Latin American Literature --
Spanish Literature --

but note:

Caribbean Poetry --
Spanish American Fiction --
Japanese Drama --

• Specific Topics

Any number of specific types or aspects of literature may also be subject terms.

For example:

Criticism --	Historical Drama --	Postmodernism (Literature) --
Elegiac Poetry --	Literature, Experimental --	Satire --
Fables --	Legends --	Science Fiction --
Fantasy Fiction --	Love Poetry --	Short Story --
Folk Literature--	Narration (Rhetoric) --	Style, Literary --
Folklore --	Poetics --	Tales --

• Association with Another Subject

Literary subjects can also be combined with other subjects using relational terms like “and” or “in.”

For example:

Bible and Literature	Folklore in Literature
Literature and Anthropology	Realism in Literature
Literature and Science	Self in Literature
Literature and Society	Sex in Literature
Women and Literature	Women in Literature

Library of Congress subject headings are used primarily in online *library catalogs*. Other online databases (e.g., the *MLA Bibliography*) may use a different set of subject terms. While doing keyword searches in such databases, you should investigate the subject searching capabilities of these resources, too.

FENWICK LIBRARY REFERENCE DEPARTMENT (document created 1/03, last modified 5/04)
Please send comments and suggestions to the Humanities Reference/Liaison Librarian, Fenwick Library.