

How to Use: *Literature Resource Center*

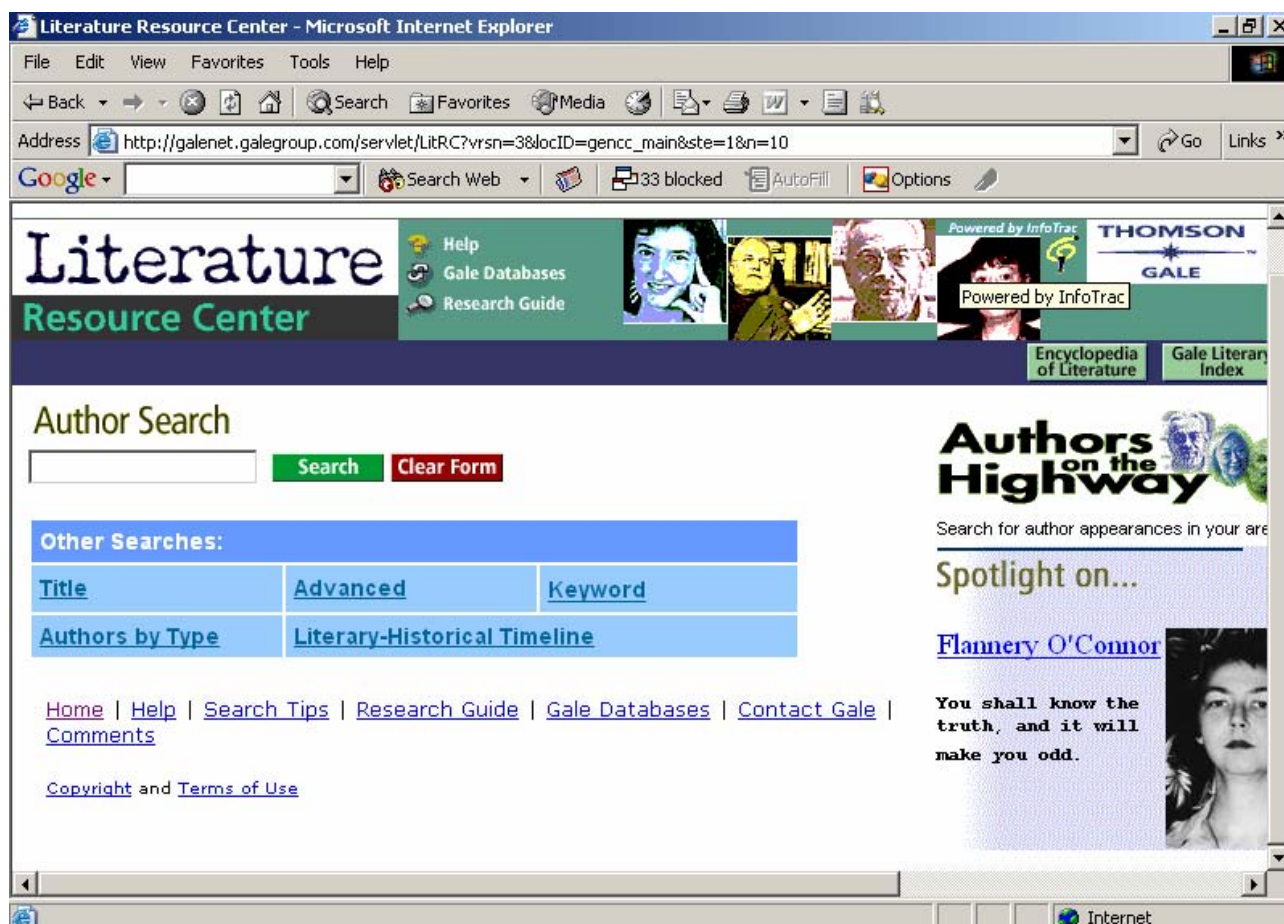
This guide is specifically designed for the version of LRC provided by the GCC Library.

The *Literature Resource Center (LRC)* is composed of the complete text of *Contemporary Authors Online* and the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, with selected criticisms from *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. It includes over 4,900 plot summaries, over 51,000 full-text journal articles, and 2,300 author portraits. High-profile authors are updated quarterly, and journal articles are updated weekly. It's a great source for information about authors and literature.

To Start:

1. Go to the Library's homepage at <http://www.genesee.suny.edu/Library>
2. Under **Find Databases & Websites** select the link for **Databases A-Z**
3. Select the link for **Literature Resource Center**

The best way to begin a search in the *LRC* is to search by **AUTHOR**. You'll be at this starting screen when you connect to the database:



Author Search

To **search by Author**, enter the author's full name, part of the name, or pseudonym in the box near the top of the search screen. The search is not case sensitive. If you are unsure about the spelling of a name, you can type in the start of the name, and add an asterisk * after it, e.g., Bron* for Charlotte Bronte.

Doing the author search will take you to an alphabetically arranged results list of author names (followed by author birth and death years) that matched your query. For example, a search for Samuel Langhorne Clemens returns a list of articles referring to this author as either Mark Twain or Samuel Langhorne Clemens.

Other Ways to Search:

Title Search: A **Title Search** will search for a title containing *any, some, or all of the words* entered. When using the Exact Title search be sure to include the leading article of the title ("The," "A," "An," etc.) for more accurate results. The Title Search is not case sensitive.

Some examples of title searches

Match any word(s) entered	Match all words entered	Exact Title
Virginia Woolf	afraid woolf virginia	Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf
clockwork	clockwork orange	a clockwork orange
Spider Woman	woman spider kiss	Kiss of the spider woman

Searching for titles containing a word or phrase will yield less precise results than searching for an exact title. For example, searching on *prometheus* will return a results list of biographies and critical essays that discuss *Frankenstein; or, The New Prometheus* by Mary Shelley, and *Prometheus Unbound* by Percy Shelley. You may also narrow your title search by entering an author name.

Keyword Search

The Keyword Search enables you to conduct a broad search using a specific word or term. For example, entering the keyword *Psychosis* yields biographies and critical essays that mention psychosis.

Authors by Type Search

This search option allows you to search by a variety of classifications specific to an author, including genre, literary movement/time period, birth and/or death date, nationality, and ethnicity. You can select more than one option from the menus by holding down the Control key and highlighting your choices. Using this search, you can identify authors who share in common a variety of classifications. Here you can conduct a search for female African-American authors who focus on the theme Coming of Age. Or, you can compile a list of Beat Movement authors who focused on the theme of Alienation. Instructions for doing these searches are available under Help

Advanced Search

The Advanced Search allows you to construct more powerful keyword-type searches and use Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT). With the Advanced Search, you can conduct a search using a variety of criteria; this enables you to retrieve very specific document results. Three search boxes with associated pull-down menus allow you to enter your search terms and select the appropriate fields pertaining to your research. An optional search allows you to limit the current search by document type or by database. See Help for more information.

Literary-Historical Timeline Search

This search allows you to target a specific date range for literary figures, movements, and historical events. The Literary Timeline Search offers a sociological, cultural, and historical context alongside literary reference. It also provides you with a sense of events that took place in an author's life and/or the period in which a work was published.

Enter a date in the start date field and select A.D. or B.C. If you also enter an end date you will receive a list of historical events, key figures, and movements targeting the range you selected. For example, entering 1925 in the start date field and 1940 in the end date field yields results including, Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*, The U.S. Stock Market Crashes On Black Tuesday, October 29, 1929, Hitler Comes to Power in Germany, January 30, 1933, and Edward VIII Abdicates Throne of England, 1936. If no end date is entered the results will include events from the start date entered to the present. Additionally, selecting a date range (or the corresponding image) from the timeline will yield results from the range selected.

Authors on the Highway Search

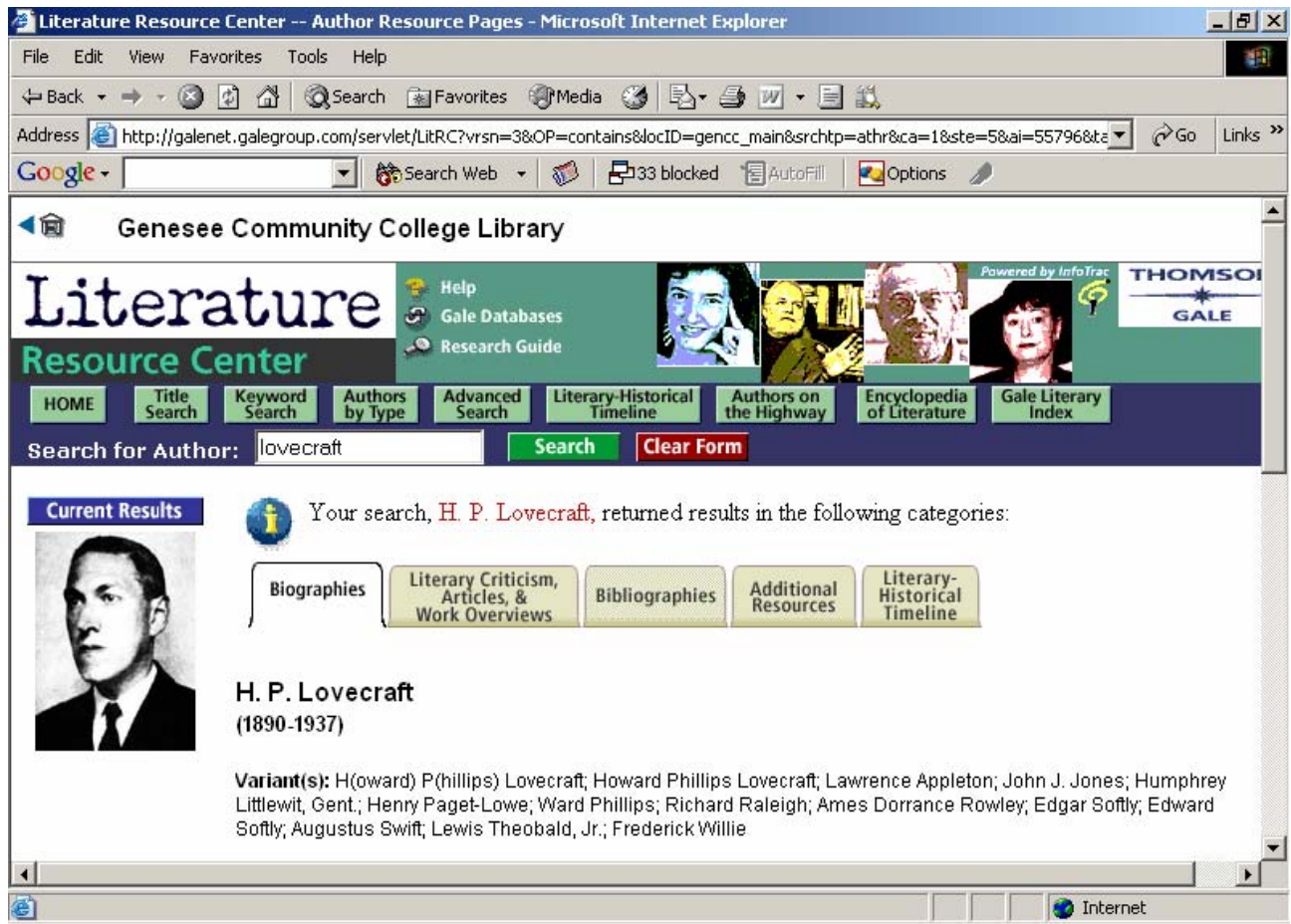
The *Authors on the Highway* search links you to the Publishers Weekly database listing upcoming author appearances. You can search by author, title, publisher, city, state, or venue.

Merriam-Webster's *Encyclopedia of Literature* Search

The *Encyclopedia of Literature* is searchable from its button on the top navigation bar that appears on every LRC page, and enables you to see definitions of 10,000+ literary terms.

Viewing Results Lists

Once you have filled in your search criteria and selected Search, you will be presented with a list of the available records that match your query. Each name in the results list will be sorted in alphabetical order by author name, then in descending order by year of birth. When you select an author, you will be taken to the **Tabbed Results Page** for that author, for example:



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Literature Resource Center website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/LitRC?vrsn=3&OP=contains&locID=gencc_main&srchtp=athr&ca=1&ste=5&ai=55796&tc. The website header includes the title "Literature Resource Center" and navigation links for "HOME", "Title Search", "Keyword Search", "Authors by Type", "Advanced Search", "Literary-Historical Timeline", "Authors on the Highway", "Encyclopedia of Literature", and "Gale Literary Index". A search bar contains the text "lovecraft" and buttons for "Search" and "Clear Form". Below the search bar, a "Current Results" section displays a portrait of H. P. Lovecraft and the text: "Your search, H. P. Lovecraft, returned results in the following categories: Biographies, Literary Criticism, Articles, & Work Overviews, Bibliographies, Additional Resources, Literary-Historical Timeline." The author's name "H. P. Lovecraft" and dates "(1890-1937)" are prominently displayed. A list of variant names follows: "Variant(s): H(oward) P(hillips) Lovecraft; Howard Phillips Lovecraft; Lawrence Appleton; John J. Jones; Humphrey Littlewit, Gent.; Henry Paget-Lowe; Ward Phillips; Richard Raleigh; Ames Dorrance Rowley; Edgar Softly; Edward Softly; Augustus Swift; Lewis Theobald, Jr.; Frederick Willie".

The Tabbed Results Pages are the primary access point for information about individual authors in LRC.

This screen displays the author's full legal name (which may or may not be his/her best known name); birth and death dates; any variant names or pseudonyms; and for most-studied authors, nationalit(ies); ethnicit(ies); major genres in which the author has written; and any literary movements or major time periods to which the author belongs. Where available, the Tabbed Results Page will also display a portrait of the author. The Tabbed Results Page features links to documents containing Biographies; Literary Criticism, Articles, & Work Overviews; Bibliographies; Additional Resources and Literary-Historical Timeline.

Additional links may or may not display on the Tabbed Results Page, depending on the amount of content available on a specific author.

Tabbed Results Page options:

Biographies Tab:

The Biographies tab includes information on authors, such as their variant names, nationality, and genres, literary movements, and time periods associated with an author and his or her work. This tab also includes links to biographies on this author.

Literary Criticism, Articles, & Work Overviews of Literary Works Tab:

This tab allows you to choose from Literary Criticism or Articles about an author or a specific work, or Work Overviews which are analyses of works that address critical reception, social and historical context, characterization, and other topics related to specific works. (Not all authors or works will have all of these possibilities.)

Bibliographies Tab:

Within the Bibliographies tab you can view lists of **Works by the Author** or **Works about the Author**. Click on either link and view bibliographies from a variety of sources.

Additional Resources Tab:

When available, you can extend your research to explore **websites** on the author's life and works, **Themes, Autobiographical Essays, Interviews**, related terms in the **Encyclopedia of Literature**, or **Topical Essays**.

Literary-Historical Timeline Tab:

When you open this tab from an Author Search or Title Search, you will note that LRC has returned dates and events that fall within the author's lifespan. Notice the start date and end date for an author's lifespan are automatically displayed in the date boxes. This will give you a sense of what was going on in the world when the selected author lived, wrote, and published.

Retrieval & Printing Options

While viewing an article, you can print it or e-mail it to yourself.

To Print: If you select the print button next to the tabs the system will automatically format the document for printing.

To Email: If you select the e-mail button, you can mail the document to yourself either in HTML format or in plain text.

From either one of these options, use the Browser's BACK button to return to the document. You may also save documents in a Mark List for reading in more detail later. See Help for additional information on retrieval options.

Citing documents from the LRC:

The library has prepared citation guidelines for the LRC for both MLA and APA styles. Pick one up at the Information Desk, or online at : www.genesee.edu/Library/citation/citation.cfm

LRC Search Tips

Strategies:

- The more search terms you add, the more precise your search results will be.
example: poets (result=8638)
poets American (result=4712)
poets American western (result=1325)
poets American western cowboy (result=40)
- Be specific. If you want information about Hispanic American women writers, enter all those terms in your search.
- Be flexible. If your search produces no results, check your spelling, eliminate a term or two, or try alternate terms.

Punctuation:

- Capitalization - Capitalization does not affect your searching; the search is not case sensitive. So: Marcel Proust is the same as marcel proust.
- Ampersand - An ampersand (&) is NOT recognized by the LRC search engine. If you mean AND, type that in.
- Double Quotes - Use double quotes when you want to search an exact phrase.
example: "Algonquin round table"
- Hyphen - If a hyphen is considered part of the search term, the search engine will search these.
example: twentieth-century
- Parentheses - Complex searches can be constructed with parentheses, and combined with Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT).
example: Lovecraft and (science fiction or fantasy)

Boolean Search Operators:

Boolean operators used in the LRC are applied in the order in which they appear in the search phrase.

- AND = find both terms, both terms must appear in the document
example: Shakespeare AND sonnet

This search will find documents that include both the terms Shakespeare and sonnet somewhere in them, but not necessarily together.
- OR = find either term, broadens a search because only one of the terms needs to appear in the document.
example: Shakespeare OR sonnet

This will find documents that include at least one of the terms.
OR can be used to find plurals: sonnet OR sonnets
- NOT = eliminate any document with this word in it
example: Shakespeare NOT sonnet

This will find only documents where Shakespeare is included and the word sonnet is not included.

Proximity Operators:

- W operator - If you want terms to be searched together in a specific order.
example: beat W1 generation - to look for the words next to each other (within 1 word), beat followed followed immediately by generation
Peking W2 opera - to look for the words within 2 words of each other, Peking followed by opera, separated by no more than two words
- N operator - If you want terms to be searched together in any order.
example: electronic N2 book - to look for the words book and electronic within 2 words of each other, in any order.

Truncation:

- The asterisk (*) can stand for any number of characters
example: poet* will return results with any of the words: poets, poetry, poetic
- The question mark (?) can stand for 1 character within a word
example: wom?n will return women or woman
- The exclamation point (!) can stand for one or no characters
example: poet! will return only poet or poets

Date Ranges:

- 1970-1979 will search for any year in the 1970s
- 1934-1938 will search for 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938 only

Questions? Contact a Librarian:

In Person	Library Information Desk
Phone	585-343-0055 Ext. 6419
Email	Click on Ask a Librarian! then Email from the library's web page
Chat	Click on Ask a Librarian! then Chat online from the library's web page