

# **Allegany College of Maryland Library**

## **Using Literature Sources**

### **INFORMATION FOUND IN THE SOURCES**

**A Criticism or critical review** of a work:

- Analyzes a particular piece of work (i.e. The Great Gatsby)
- Covers themes, importance of work

**A Biographical Source:**

- Contains information **ABOUT** the author who wrote the work

American Literature OR British/English Literature

Short story, poetry, novels, plays

### **TYPES OF SOURCES**

1. **Dictionary:** usually brief information, may be biographical or critical
2. **Encyclopedia:** usually longer, more in-depth information about the work or the author, may be biographical or critical
3. **Journal articles:** articles in journals (usually literary) length varies, may be biographical or critical

### **WHERE TO FIND THE SOURCES**

**Reference Collection:** books that stay in the library, good for research, includes dictionaries and encyclopedias

Use the *Online Library Catalog*

**Circulating Collection:** books that can be checked out, usually more in depth about topics

Use the *Online Library Catalog*.

**Journal Articles:** articles in journals (not magazines)

Use the *Maryland Digital Library*

## Allegany College of Maryland Library

### Online Library Catalog

- A. To find **CIRCULATING** books, do the following search:
1. Choose *Complete Online Catalog* from the main menu. Next to the search box, click on the **drop down arrow** and select:
    - a. **Author** searching – type in the LAST Name, FIRST name  
Finds works **ABOUT** the author (look for the word criticism)  
Finds works **BY** the author
    - b. **Subject** Searching – type in author’s name  
Finds works **ABOUT** the author and his/her works

### Gale Research Sources at Allegany College of Maryland Library

These sources cross-reference each other. Look for the abbreviations in the indexes of any of them. The library does not have complete sets of each of these. A list of the individual *Dictionary of Literary Biography* books that are in the collection are on the shelf near the general encyclopedias in the reference collection.

*Contemporary Authors* (CA) – Ref. PN451.C6

Permanent Series

New Revision Series

Autobiography Series

*Contemporary Literary Criticism* (CLC) – Ref. PN771.C59

*Dictionary of Literary Biography* (DLB) – various locations in the reference collection refer to the list on the shelves by the encyclopedias

*Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism* (TCLC)

*Short Story Criticism* (SSC) – Ref. PN 3373.S386

### Biographical Information

*Contemporary Authors* – Ref. PN451.C6 – use the cumulative index in vol 116

*American Writers* – Ref. PS129.A55

*Beacham’s Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction* – Ref. PN2491.B43 1996

*The Cambridge Guide to Literature in English* – Ref. PR85.C29 1993

### Criticism Information

*Contemporary Literary Criticism* – Ref. PN 771. C59 – use the cumulative index in the last volume

*Critical Survey of Long Fiction* – Ref. PN 3451.C7

