

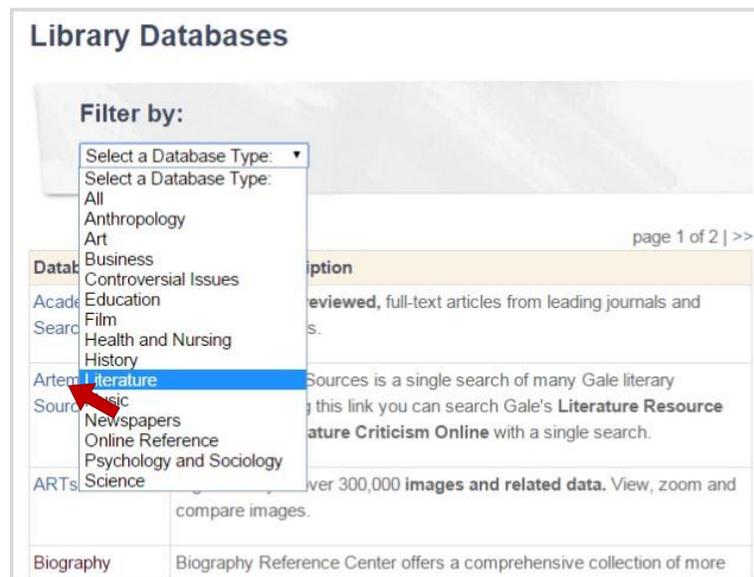
# A Quick Guide to Literature Resources

Sometimes it's hard to know where to start when looking for literary criticism and other information about authors and their work. Consider this guide a helpful starting point that can direct you where to in order to find what you need, whether that's criticism, biographical information, or literary journals that can expose you to new material.

## Databases

The library provides access to a number of different [databases](#) that allow you to search for articles in newspapers, magazines, and academic journals. Some of our databases also search for entries in a number of our reference books.

To make sure you're only looking at databases relevant to your literary needs the first thing you should do when getting to the database page is **filter** the results to **Literature** using the pulldown menu.



A few databases where you might want to start:

### Artemis Literary Databases

Use this resource to search for information on a wide range of literary materials (fiction, poetry, short stories, drama...). Artemis provides access to **literary criticism, biographical information, work overviews** and more. Information is pulled from relevant academic journals, magazines, and reference books.

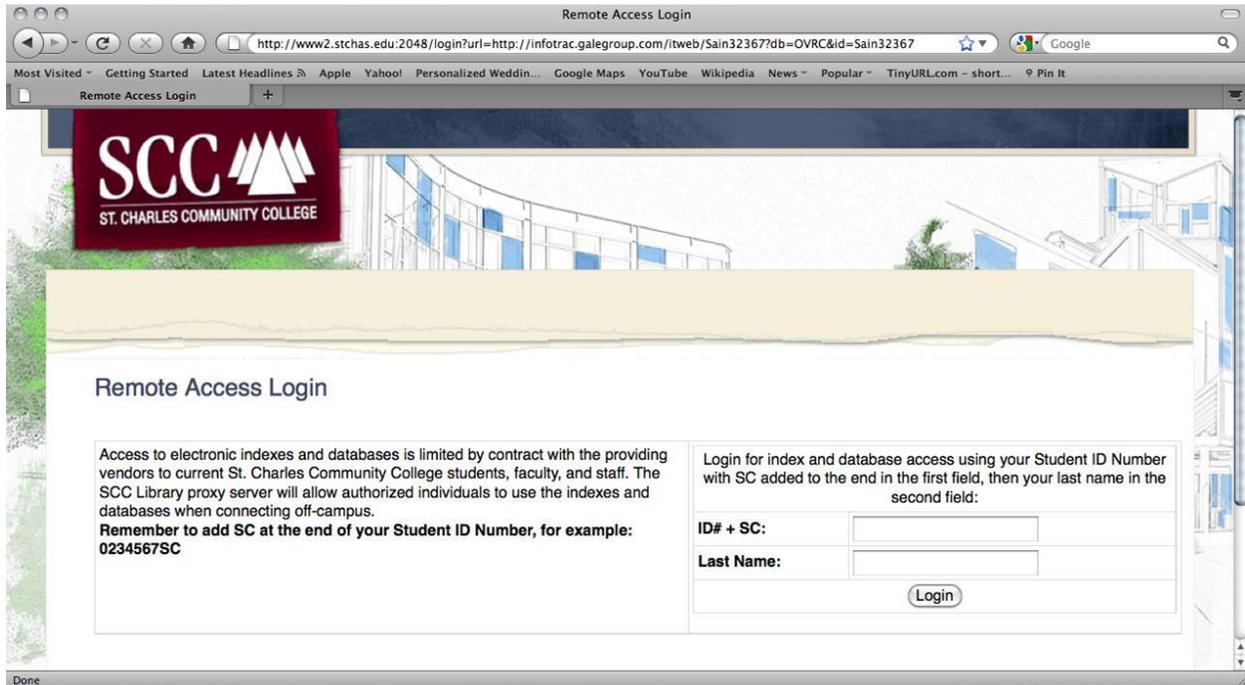
### MagillOnLiterature Plus

This database connects you to **literature criticism, author biographies, book reviews, theme and character analyses,** and more. All information is pulled from Magill's Literary Series (a broad range of literature-focused reference books).

### Academic Search Premier

This database searches for articles in **academic journals, magazines and newspapers.** While not specifically a "literature" database, this offers information from many different perspectives (ex. articles about Toni Morrison's work from a religious or African American studies journal).

When accessing the library databases off-campus you will be prompted to log in remotely. All this requires is logging in with your **SCC ID number** (the number on your ID card, NOT your CANVAS login) followed by the letters SC (ex. 012345sc) and your **last name**.



## Literary Periodicals

The library receives a number of literary periodicals – some that offer in-depth analysis of literary works and some that expose you to the work of new writers. The following titles are available in print at the library. Periodicals are available for in-library use which means these titles are always here for you to read.

- **American Literature** - **Library holdings: Current 10 years**  
{"Features articles dealing with American literature, writers and poets, book reviews and lists of recently published books dealing with literary criticism."}
- **Contemporary Literature** - **Library holdings: 1995 – Present**  
{"*Contemporary Literature* publishes scholarly essays on contemporary writing in English, interviews with established and emerging authors, and reviews of recent critical books in the field."}
- **Glimmer Train** - **Library holdings: 2009 – Present**  
{"One of the most respected short-story journals in print, Glimmer Train continues to actively champion emerging writers." Also included in the journal are author interviews}
- **Mid Rivers Review: A Literary Journal** - **Library holdings: 1997 – Present {Located on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; call # PS 1 .M5}**  
{"*Mid Rivers Review*, the literary journal of St. Charles Community College, is published annually by the English Department. The journal contains poetry, prose and artwork contributed by students, staff, faculty and area residents."}  
\*Formerly known as *Charlie: The Literary Journal of St. Charles County Community College*
- **The Missouri Review** - **Library holdings: 1982 - Present**  
{This literary magazine "helped shape the contemporary literary scene by offering the finest work of today's most important writers and by discovering the brightest new voices in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry."}

- **Modern Fiction Studies** - **Library holdings: 1995 - Present**  
 {"MFS publishes theoretically engaged and historically informed articles on modernist and contemporary fiction. The journal's substantial book review section keeps readers informed about current scholarship in the field."}
- **Natural Bridge: A Journal of Contemporary Literature** – **Library holdings: 2002 – Present**  
 {"A journal of contemporary literature . . . publishing fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and works in translation by award winning writers."}
- **New York Review of Books** - **Library holdings: 1996 - Present**  
 {"It is the journal where the most important issues are discussed by writers who are themselves a major force in world literature and thought."}
- **The Paris Review** - **Library holdings: 1994 - Present**  
 {"Presents contemporary writer's discussions of their own work and the craft of writing. Fiction, poetry, literary essays and art portfolios are included."}
- **Poetry** - **Library holdings: 1971-1975; 1995 - Present**  
 {"Poetry regularly presents new work by the most recognized poets, but its primary commitment is still to discover new voices."}
- **River Styx** - **Library holdings: 2000 - Present**  
 {"An international journal of poetry, fiction, essays, interviews & art."}
- **The Sewanee Review** - **Library holdings: 1995 – Present**  
 {"The Sewanee Review is unique in the field of letters for its rich tradition of excellence in poetry, fiction, and memoir, and for its dedication to straightforward, no-nonsense literary criticism."}

## Books & Films

You always have the option of searching the [library catalog](#) to find books (including eBooks – available 24/7) and films (DVDs and streaming video) related to your topic. The search box for the catalog is embedded at the top of the library homepage.

A few tips when you're searching:

- If you type in the name of a specific author it will pull up related materials both by **and** about that author. This can be a good way to find texts that offer criticism of a writer's work. To specifically find information ABOUT the author, use the limiters on the left-hand side of the screen. Under the "Found In" heading select "Subject."

The screenshot shows a library catalog search results page for 'john irving'. At the top, there are tabs for 'Books & Films', 'Articles', and 'Search All'. Below the tabs, it says 'Results 1 - 25 of 173 for john irving' and 'Sorted by Relevance | Date | Title'. On the left side, there is a 'Refine by:' section with several categories: 'Availability' (At The Library: 100, Online: 72), 'Found In' (Title: 97, Author: 23, Subject: 12), 'Format' (Book: 97, E-Book: 71, DVD: 3, Streaming Video: 1, Video Cassette: 1), and 'Language' (English: 172, German: 2, French: 2, Italian: 1). A red arrow points to the 'Subject' filter under the 'Found In' category. On the right side, there are three search results for John Irving: 'John Irving / edited and with Harold Bloom' (Book | 2001), 'John Irving : a critical companion' by Campbell, Josie P. (Book | 1998), and 'John Irving [electronic resource] : a critical companion' by Campbell, Josie P. (E-Book | 1998).

- Sometimes it can be helpful to search for a specific genre to get broad information about themes and historical significance. Try searching for specific literary genres like: science fiction, Harlem Renaissance, or Native American literature
- Don't be scared off by reference books! They can be incredibly helpful when it comes to finding criticism. While a number of our reference books have electronic access, there are still some great ones in the library that are only available in print. Take advantage of them!

The library is also part of a great system called [MOBIUS](#). Through MOBIUS we have partnered with a number of other libraries around the state (and in other states) to provide our students with access to millions of books. Allow 3-4 business days after you request a book for it to arrive on campus. The library will notify you at your CougarMail address when your items are available for pick up.

## **Further Assistance**

If you need help finding sources, a librarian is always available! Stop by the Reference Desk anytime; no appointment is necessary. You can also call us at (636) 922-8620, chat with us from the library home page, or email us at [refdrop@stchas.edu](mailto:refdrop@stchas.edu).

Fall and Spring Semester Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

Summer, intersession, and holiday hours vary.