

Searching Gale Literature Resources

Gale Literature Resources include Gale's Contemporary Authors, selected articles from Contemporary Literary Criticism, the Encyclopedia of Literature, Scribners Writers, Twayne's Author Series, the Dictionary of Literary Biography, LitFinder, Merriam-Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature and Collegiate Dictionary, and the Gale Literary Index.

The basic search screen in Literature Resources provides options to search for articles by or about a specific person, by the name of the subject work, by keywords or throughout the entire text of the articles. The keyword option searches only through key fields of each record: the title and author, the first 50 words in the document, and the index terms that have been assigned to it.

Below the search box, options are available for limiting to full-text documents or only those that are "peer-reviewed." The latter will limit the search to articles submitted for review by qualified experts before publication in scholarly journals. This option is especially helpful in academic work because it ensures the credibility of the materials in the results list and eliminates articles that appeared in more popular publications intended for the general public. The search can also be limited to the year, or range of years, of publication of the criticism, or by century of the subject material.

The system recognizes "wildcards" to assist with variant spellings. The question mark (?) can stand for any missing letter, the exclamation point (!) can stand for one or none, and the root of a word followed by an asterisk (*) will retrieve all alternate endings.

A search for peer-reviewed literature criticism for Goodman and Hawthorne might, for example, utilize the exclamation point to retrieve materials with or without the "e" on the end of the author's name.

The results list reflects the limiters in place. Use the options in the menu at left to narrow the results further by first selecting subject, person, name of work, etc., and then clicking on one of the links offered in the listing below. The number in parentheses indicates how many articles are available within each category.

Clicking on the title of an article will open the full record with options to view the article in PDF and print, e-mail or download it.

Notice the "ReadSpeaker" function:

"If only it were so simple! If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being . . ."

Gale Literature Resources has this machine-read audio option available for each of the articles in the database. It can be downloaded in MP3 format.

In addition to printing and downloading, the tools box offers citation help and even translations.

Alternative search options are available at the top of the screen and include the searching for an individual, for various types of literature filtered by time period, author, language, author gender, nationality or ethnicity, or through the entire print collection via the Gale Literary Index.

The advanced search page, as is typically the case, offers the option to limit searches to specific fields of the records and also assists with Boolean searching. The author search refers to the author of the criticism, rather than the author of the subject work. To search for Nathaniel Hawthorne, select "Person-By or About." Limiters for document types, language, and target audience have been added to those available in the basic search.

Gale Literature Resources offer you a wealth of material and many ways to access it. Good luck with your searches! If you should have any questions or difficulties, as always, we are available at the library. Just ask!