

## Finding Literary Criticism or Biographical Information on an Author

### 1. **SINGLE VOLUME CIRCULATING BOOKS:**

Use library's online "card catalog" at <http://library.dccc.edu>

To find books **about** an author and his/her works: Go to subject keyword – type in the author's name; write down the call number of the book.

*(When you have the book in hand, look in the index in the back of the book for a particular story or poem or play...)*

### 2. **REFERENCE BOOKS:**

**Masterplots Series:** (Easy to use, summary of plot with literary criticism.)

**Gale Series:** Use the blue paperback index to find reference books from the Gale Publishing Company. These books contain biographical information as well as reprints of literary criticism previously published in journal articles and books.

**NOTE: Online Reference "Book" Databases:** Available from library homepage; click "search for articles"; get password from librarian; scroll to these two databases.

- Scribner Writers
- Wilson Biographies Plus

**NOTE: Books Beyond the Literature Section:**

The DCCC Library has a wealth of specialized historical, psychological and social science encyclopedias and circulating books such as Victorian Britain: an Encyclopedia(REF DA550.V53), The Marshall-Cavendish Encyclopedia of World War I (REF D522.5 .M39) or A History of the Wife (HQ1206.Y35).

**Use the online book catalog to explore books on the historical or cultural background of the poem, story, play, novel, or author's life.**

### 3. **JOURNAL ARTICLES:**

To find published literary journal articles in electronic format go to the Ebsco or Wilson or LION databases via the library homepage. (From <http://library.dccc.edu> Choose *search for articles*. Get passwords from librarian. Scroll down to category of *Literature*.)

### 4. **WORLD WIDE WEB:**

Use a search engine like google.com. Type in keywords such as author's name and name of work. Try limiting search to just sites from .edu or .org CAUTION: Anyone can publish information on the web. Check the author's credentials before deciding that the information posted is legitimate.

Pre-reviewed site: ipl.org (The Internet Public Library—see *literary criticism*.)