



# UTK Library Guide to Research

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## FINDING INFORMATION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS AND THEIR WORKS

### A LIST OF SELECTED REFERENCE BOOKS

Designed to assist the researcher in locating information on African American authors and their works, this guide contains sources in all literary genres: drama, novel, poetry and short story. It also covers nonfiction writers and journalist. The guide is divided into two major parts: **Biography** and **Literary Criticism**. Each part is arranged in the following manner and the references appear in this order: **drama, novel, poetry and short story**. Works specifically concerning African Americans appear first, followed by materials covering broader groups and ending with indexes and bibliographies.

In Part I, **BIOGRAPHY**, reference sources are listed in this order:

1. Reference books covering African American writers in all literary genres.
2. Books specifically concerning African American writers in each genre individually.

[Selected reference books are grouped in this manner: **drama, novel, poetry and short story**.]

3. Books covering American writers or a broader group.
4. Indexes and bibliographies.

[NOTE: INDEXES list sources of information (magazine and journal articles, books, etc.) by and/or about an author. BIBLIOGRAPHIES provide lists of books and other sources by and/or about an author.]

From Part II, **LITERARY CRITICISM**, an example of the arrangement follows:

#### EXAMPLE: LITERARY CRITICISM

##### ALL GENRES—CRITICISM

- (1) *Afro-American Writers*
- (1) *Black Literature Criticism*
- (3) *Articles on American Literature*
- (3) *Articles in Twentieth Century Literature*
- (4) *Humanities Index* (CD-ROM and print index)
- (4) *MLA Bibliography* (CD-ROM and print index)

##### DRAMA—CRITICISM

- (2) *Black American Playwrights*

ALL REFERENCE BOOKS LISTED IN THIS GUIDE ARE LOCATED IN THE REFERENCE ROOM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED. FOR THE MOST PART, THE SOURCES INCLUDED ON THIS LIST ARE PRINTED PUBLICATIONS. NOTATIONS ARE MADE WHEN THE MEDIUM (CD-ROM, MICROFICHE OR OTHER) IS DIFFERENT.

PLEASE ASK A REFERENCE LIBRARIAN FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE.

## BIOGRAPHY

*Black American Writers.* Ref. PS153.N5R8 (1975) Index Table Two

Outlines information on more than 2,000 living and deceased black American writers, including their lives and their works: drama, novel, poetry and short story. Covers literary criticism on literature for children and young adults from the early 18th century to 1974.

*Dictionary of Literary Biography (DLB), 1978- .* Vols. 1-47 Ref. PS221.D49 Index Table One

“Includes all the major North American writers and those standing in the ranks immediately behind them written by the best available scholarly and critical writers. Entries are divided into two types: extended factual and evaluative essays on major figures; and, shorter essays on less important figures. They are not limited to ‘creative writers,’ but extend to others who in their time and in their way contributed to our literature.”

*DLB: Afro-American Fiction Writers after 1955, 33:1984.*

Contains biographical information on the life and works of Afro-American fiction writers in the United States up to 1955. Includes four appendices.

*DLB: Afro-American Writers after 1955: Dramatists and Prose Writers, 38:1985.*

Covers the lives and works of Afro-American writers after 1955. Supplementary reading list and cumulative index are listed.

*DLB: Afro-American Poets since 1955, 41:1985.*

Arranged alphabetically by the poet’s last name, this volume of DLB provides life stories and works of African American poets after 1955. A cumulative index is included.

*DLB: Afro-American Writers before the Harlem Renaissance, 50:1986.*

Includes the works and lives of black American authors before the 1920s. Presents a corollary history of the publishing outlets and efforts of early Afro-Americans.

*DLB: Afro-American Writers from the Harlem Renaissance to 1940, 51:1987.*

[NOTE: The Harlem Renaissance was a “period of exceptional creativity by blacks and receptivity by whites, corresponding roughly to the decade of the 1920.”

“Harlem Renaissance,” p. 200, *Dictionary of Black Culture*, Ref. E185.96.B33]

Includes the works of Afro-American writers from the Harlem Renaissance to 1940: education, books and periodical publications. A cumulative index is provided.

*DLB: Afro-American Writers, 1940-1955, 76:1988.*

This volume covers the works of black American writers from the colonial period up to 1955. Addresses the lives and major works of 26 authors. Includes minor writers who first published significant works between 1940 and 1955.

*Dictionary of Literary Biography Yearbook(s), 1981- .* Ref. PS221.D5 Index Table One

Provides articles about the past year’s literary events or topics as well as obituaries and tributes in North America. Also includes a list of literary prizes and awards, a necrology and a checklist of literary histories and biographies published during the year.

SEE ALSO GALE’S LITERARY INDEX ON CD-ROM. IT COVERS ALL OF *DICTIONARY OF LITERARY BIOGRAPHY*. *Gales’s Literary Index* is “a master index to the 675 volumes in all 32 literary series published by Gale Research, Incorporated. It combines and cross-references every author and title citation into one source for easy searching. More than 110,000 author names, including pseudonyms and variant names, and over 120,000 titles are included.”

*In Black and White: A Guide to Magazine Articles, Newspaper Articles and Books.* 2 vols.

Ref. E185.96.S673 (1980) Ref. Stacks Aisle 15

Contains bibliographic references for more than 15,000 black individuals and groups from many parts of the world. An alphabetical order was used for both entries and sources. Includes a bibliography.

*American Writers.* Ref. PS129.A55 Index Table Two

Provides information about the lives, careers and works of American writers: their plays, essays, poems, novels and short stories. Contains bibliographical material and a selected bibliography of the author's publications. Includes critical analysis and an evaluation of the writer's work.

*Contemporary Authors (CA)*, 1962, 1963, 1967- . Ref. CT220.C26 Ref. Stacks Aisle 14

Includes biographical sketches of over 100,000 authors both living and deceased in all genres: fiction, general non-fiction, poetry, journalism, drama, motion pictures, television and other fields. Every author's entry contains personal information, mailing address, career summary, membership information, awards and honors, writings, adaptations, work-in-progress, sidelights, biographical and critical sources and obituary notices. A cumulative index is also included.

*Contemporary Authors. Autobiography Series (CAAS)*, 1984- . Ref. CT220.C632 Ref. Stacks Aisle 14

Lists more than 75,000 autobiographical sketches on living authors or those deceased since 1900. The author's primary works appear at the end of each entry. A cumulative index is also included.

*Contemporary Authors. New Revision Series (CAR)*, 1962, 1963, 1967, 1974-1976 and 1981- . Ref. CT220.C63  
Ref. Stacks Aisle 14

This 45-volume set provides a bio-bibliographical guide to current writers of fiction, general nonfiction, poetry, drama, journalism, motion pictures, television and other fields. Lists those authors whose entries have undergone significant change since their last appearance in *Contemporary Authors*. Contains sketches from several *CA* volumes, including previously revised editions. Every entry includes new degrees, mailing address, literary agents, career information, memberships, bibliographical and critical sources, and informative new sidelights.

*Contemporary Authors. Permanent Series.* 2 vols. Ref. CT220.C62 Ref. Stacks Aisle 14

A bio-bibliographical guide to current authors and their works. Each entry includes a biographical sketch, complete with career information, affiliations, publications, work-in-progress and sidelights.

*Current Biography*, 1940- . Annual. Ref. CT100.C8 Ref. Stacks Aisle 13

Issued monthly with annual cumulative indexes, this source provides timely biographical sketches on leading personalities from all fields of human accomplishment the world over. Indexes contain bibliographic references and classification by profession. Each volume cumulates and supersedes all previous indexes.

## BIOGRAPHY—INDEXES

*Biography and Genealogy Master Index*, 1980.

See entry below.

*Biography and Genealogy Master Index*, 1981- . Ref. CT214.B56 [CD-ROM and print index]

"Indexes over 4 million people from the beginning of time, such as Aristophanes, through today's news makers such as Boris Yeltsin. Each citation provides the biographee's name, birth and death years (if available and applicable), the source publication, publisher, published year, the volume/edition number, if applicable and miscellaneous notes."

SEE ALSO: Encyclopedias and their Yearbooks provide good general information (dates and other basic information) on well-known African American writers. The Yearbooks such as *Americana* and *Britannica* provide the latest information on contemporary and living authors.

## ALL GENRES—CRITICISM

*African American Writers.* Ref. PS153.N5A344 Index Table Two

Provides an introduction to the work of African American writers who have made a significant contribution to African American and United States letters, culture and history. For each writer there is a short biographical section with the main text devoted to a survey of the subject's principal writings and an assessment of the work as a whole. Each article contains a selected bibliography.

*Afro-American Writers.* Ref. PS153.N5T87 Index Table Two

Includes Afro-Americans' works in drama, fiction and poetry. Their works, published in the United States during the twentieth century, are cited. Cross reference is made to their other forms writing, including essays.

*Black Literature Criticism (BLC).* 3 vols. Ref. PS153.N5B556 1992 Index Table Two

Includes 125 writers representing the United States, Nigeria, South Africa, Jamaica, and over 12 other nations in comprehensive author entries. Offers a one-stop, authoritative guide to the whole spectrum of black literature.

*Facts on File Bibliography of American Fiction: 1866-1918.* Ref. PS377.F32 (1866-1918) Index Table Two

Consists of entries on writers who published their works between 1866 and 1918. Each author entry includes a list of books and other publications as well as shorter writings about the author. Includes a chronology. Journals and acronyms and an index are provided.

*Index to Black Periodicals, 1941-* . Ref. E185.5.I53 Ref. Stacks Aisle 15

Indexes 35 African American periodicals of general and scholarly interest that address the Black Experience. [It formerly appeared under these titles: *Guide to Negro Periodical Literature* (1941-1949); *Index to Selected Periodicals* (1950-1954); *Index to Selected Negro Periodicals* (1954-1959); *Index to Periodical Articles by and about Negroes* (1960-1972); and, *Index to Periodical Articles by and about Blacks* (1973-1983).] "Authors, subjects and cross-references are interfiled into a single alphabetical arrangement. Headings are alphabetized in a strict, letter-by-letter sequence. The authority for subject headings is the *Library of Congress Subject Headings*."

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*Articles on American Literature, 1900-1950.* Ref. PS88.L43 (1954) Index Table Two

Includes articles, written in English, on American literature writers that appeared in periodicals from 1900 through 1950. Arranged in alphabetical order by the author's last name.

*Articles on American Literature, 1950-1967.* Ref. PS88.L435 (1970) Index Table Two

Updates its predecessor (see previous entry) and includes writers of American literature from 1950 through 1967.

*Articles on Twentieth Century Literature.* PN 771.P6 (1973) Fourth Floor Stacks

An annotated bibliography covering the years 1954-1970, this book contains references to sources of "an expanded cumulation of bibliography in the journal *Twentieth Century Literature*, volume one to volume sixteen, 1955 to 1970."

*Contemporary Literary Criticism (CLC), 1973-* . Ref. PN771.C59 Ref. Stacks

This multi-volume work includes sources of criticism on novelists, poets, playwrights and other creative writers who are either still living or who have died since 1 January 1960. Many entries list reference books for detailed biographical and bibliographical information on personalities.

[NOTE: *Contemporary Literary Criticism* is also included in *Gale's Literary Index* on CD-ROM.]

*Essay and General Literature Index.* Ref. AI3.E752 Front Center Counter 2

Offering the researcher a unique opportunity to locate parts of books, monographs, essays, speeches and sources of criticism, this index is arranged in one alphabetical order by author and subject.

*Gale's Literary Index/CD-ROM.* Individual Stations in Reference Services

Covers all of *Contemporary Literary Criticism (CLC)*. "Indexes 675 volumes in all 32 literary series published by Gale Research, Incorporated. It combines and cross-references every author and title citation into one source for easy searching. More than 110,000 author names, including pseudonyms and variant names, and over 120,000 titles are included."

*Humanities Index.* (CD-ROM and print index) Ref. AI3.H86 Front Center Counter 2

An author and subject index to 345 English-language periodicals in the fields of archaeology and classical studies, area studies, folklore, history, language and literature, performing arts, philosophy, religion and theology and related fields. All entries are arranged in one alphabetical order.

*MLA (Modern Language Association) International Bibliography.* (CD-ROM and print index) Ref. PB1.M462 Rear Center Counter 8

Contains a listing of author and subject indexes for books and articles published on modern languages, literature, folklore and linguistics. The bibliography, arranged in five volumes, addresses all genres of literature and literary topics: (1) British and Irish Commonwealth; English, Caribbean and American Literature; (2) European, Asia, Africa and Latin American Literature; (3) Linguistics; (4) General Literature and Related Topics; and, (5) Folklore.

*Magill's Bibliography of Literary Criticism.* Ref. PN523.M3 Index Table Two

The sources of criticism listed in this bibliography include all types of citations: "articles in periodicals, articles or chapters from books and entire books." Compiled by a team of literary researchers, references include scholarly criticism in the fields of fiction, drama and poetry.

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## DRAMA—CRITICISM

*Black American Playwrights, 1800 to the Present: A Bibliography.* Ref. PS153.N5A73 (1976) Index Table Two

Listing some 530 black playwrights, this bibliography is an alphabetical listing of these playwrights and their works. A general bibliography and title index are included.

*More Black American Playwrights.* Ref. PS153.N5A74 (1978) Index Table Two

Covers 490 black playwrights and their works including sources of criticisms, reviews and awards. Includes a bibliography and an index of these playwrights.

*Critical Survey of Drama.* 7 vols. Ref. PR623.C75 (1994) Index Table Three

This survey contains 240 articles on individual dramatists and 22 comprehensive overview essays on various aspects of English-language drama. An annotated bibliography of the history and criticism of drama. A glossary, entitled "Dramatic Terms and Movements," is included.

*Drama Criticism.* 4 vols. Ref. PN1601.D59 Index Table Three

Presents the most frequently studied playwrights of all time periods and nationalities. Each author entry includes a biographical sketch, principal works, overviews and general studies, production reviews, critical commentary, further reading and other works. Includes three indexes: (1) cumulative author; (2) nationality; and, (3) title.

*Modern Drama Scholarship and Criticism, 1966-1980: An International Bibliography.* Ref. PN1655.C37 (1986)

Index Table Three

Spans a 15-year period of modern drama studies. Every entry includes: name of the author, title of book or play, the publisher and recurring terms. Features a cross-reference.

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## NOVEL—CRITICISM

*The American Novel, 1789-1959.* Vols. 1-2. Ref. PS379.G47 (1961)

Divided into two sections, this checklist of twentieth-century criticism includes criticism of individual authors and criticism of the American novel as a genre. Three categories are addressed in the first section: (1) Individual novels; (2) General studies; and, (3) Bibliographies. The second major section lists general studies of the American novel, divided, as far as possible, into centuries. Volume one includes criticism on novels written since 1789 and volume two has criticism written between 1960 and 1968.

*The Contemporary Novel.* Ref. PN3451.A2 (1972) Index Table Three

This checklist examines critical literature on contemporary British and American novels. Most selections are from journals and books which represent literary scholarship rather than from book reviews. Includes a list of books analyzed.

*Critical Survey of Long Fiction.* 8 vols. Ref. PR821.C7 (1991)

Lists 332 articles on individual novelist, 14 essays and a glossary of terms and techniques. Every article includes fiction, literary forms, achievements, biographical information, analysis, other works and a bibliography.

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## POETRY—CRITICISM

*Critical Survey of Poetry (English Language Series)* 8 vols. PR502.C85 Index Table Three

Contains a comprehensive overview of poets, their works and information on the poetic genre in general. This eight-volume reference source is divided into two parts: (1) Authors and (2) Essays. The list of authors, arranged in alphabetical order, provides biographical information, including date of birth, principal poems, other literary forms and accomplishments, and an analysis of the poet's major works. A comprehensive index is provided.

*Critical Survey of Poetry, Supplement. (ELS)* Ref. PR504.C85 Index Table Three

"Extends coverage to significant poets who are not included in the earlier volumes—particularly contemporary poets, who could be covered only selectively in the original survey. Of the 49 poets included in the supplement (ten of whom are women), all but four are from the twentieth century, and about half are still active. Slightly less than half of the poets included are from the United States; in all, 18 countries are represented, including poets from England, Scotland, and Ireland, South Africa and Australia, Eastern and Western Europe, the Soviet Union and the Middle East, Brazil, Turkey and Japan."

*An Index to Criticism of British and American Poetry.* Ref. PR89.C5 Index Table Three

An excellent source for criticisms of poems by British and American poets. Includes 2,862 criticisms of 1,510 poems by 285 poets. PART ONE lists poets in alphabetical order by their surnames, poem titles and critic citations. PART TWO lists 1,865 entries under the surname of the critic.

*Poetry Criticism.* Ref. PN1010.P499 Index Table Three

This nine-volume set provides researchers with substantial critical excerpts and biographical information on the world's most frequently discussed and studied poets in high school and undergraduate college courses. Each author entry consists of an author heading, biographical and critical introduction, a portrait of the author, principal works, critical excerpts, bibliographical citations and further readings. A cumulative author index, a nationality index and a title index are included.

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## SHORT STORY—CRITICISM

*Critical Survey of Short Fiction.* Revised Edition. Ref. PN3321.C7 Index Table Two

This revised edition spans seven volumes. It updates and expands the 1981 edition. "Includes 363 articles, 348 on individual authors and 12 comprehensive 'overview' essays, an annotated bibliography of short fiction criticism, a chronology and a glossary: 'Terms and Techniques.'"

*Short Story Criticism.* Ref. PN3373.S386 Index Table Two

The 17 volumes of *SSC* include excerpts from criticism of the works of short fiction writers. These significant passages represent criticism of "the greatest short story writers of all time and provides supplementary materials—biographical and bibliographical—to guide the student to a greater understanding of the authors of short fiction."

*Twentieth Century Short Story Explication.* Ref. PN3373.W3 Index Table Two

Compiled by Warren S. Walker, this source of short story explication lists sources of interpretations from 1900-1975 of short fiction written since 1800 ("a brief narrative of not more than 150 average-sized pages"). All books are cited by author or editor and a short title; the full title and publication data are provided in the Check List of Books Used. Articles appearing in journals or in essays in a critical collection contain full publication information the first time the study is cited.

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