This guide is intended to help library patrons of the Atkins Library (at the University of North Carolina Charlotte) find sources of criticism on African-American literature. The guide explains important reference sources in the reference collection of the library and how to find biographical and critical information in books and periodicals. The guide presents brief descriptions and the call numbers for 71 items in the collection. The guide is divided into the following sections: general references works, books, individual bibliographies, bibliographies on more than one author, short stories, poetry, drama, book reviews, children's literature, and periodical indexes. (RS)
AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE:
Finding Biographical and Critical Sources
AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE:
FINDING BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL SOURCES

Compiled by Judith Van Noate
Reference Librarian
Reference Unit, Atkins Library, UNC-Charlotte

This guide is intended to help you find sources of criticism on African-American literature (long fiction, short fiction, poetry, drama). It explains important reference sources in the Atkins library reference collection and how to find biographical and critical information in books and periodicals.

It is arranged as follows:

1. GENERAL REFERENCE WORKS may be used for any author and all forms of literature)..............................1-5
   a. Background information.............................1-2
   b. Biographical and critical information..............2-5

2. BOOKS on individual authors and their work........5

3. INDIVIDUAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES........................................5

4. BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON MORE THAN ONE AUTHOR
   (sources of criticism - multi-genre).....................6-9

5. SHORT STORIES - sources for criticism .................9-10

6. POETRY - sources for criticism.........................10-13

7. DRAMA - sources for criticism.............................14-15

8. BOOK REVIEWS..........................................................16

9. CHILDREN’S LITERATURE.............................................17

10. PERIODICAL INDEXES................................................18-22
REFERENCE BOOKS: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

If you are looking for information about an author and are not sure where to begin, or if you need some basic information about a type or genre of literature, the following are good sources.

Ref

Oxford Companion to American Literature
PS
21
H3
1983
Short "overview" type biographical sketches. A particularly useful feature of this book is the "Chronological Index," pp. 861-896, which "is a year-by-year outline in parallel sequence of ...social and literary history..."

Ref

Harlem Renaissance and Beyond: Literary Biographies of 100 Black Women Writers
PS
153
N5
1990
Biographical entries--some are several pages long--with lists of primary and secondary sources.

Ref

Living Black American Authors:
PS
A Biographical Directory
153
N5
1973
Brief biographies, title index and index to publishers. Published in 1973.

Ref

Black Plots & Black Characters: A Handbook for Afro-American Literature
PS
153
N5
S65
Includes: Part 1, concise summaries of novels, plays, long poems; Part 2, biographical sketches of authors with bibliographies of their works; Part 3, a general bibliography for Afro-American history and literature; Part 4, a chronological index. Author index to Part 1 on pp. 455-456. Published in 1979.

Ref

Selected Black American, African, and Caribbean Authors: A Bio-bibliography
PS
153
N5
P3
1985
Contains biographical information on 632 literary and non-literary writers. Lists of works by authors are limited to published books. This recent (1985) work is well formatted, comprehensive and easy to use. Occupational and title indexes.
Selected Black American Authors: 
An Illustrated Bio-Bibliography

Includes writers from a variety of disciplines -- historians, social scientists, theologians, as well as authors of fiction, poetry, etc. Covers colonial times to 1977. Biographical entries with lists of works and portraits.

REFERENCE BOOKS:
BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL INFORMATION

Gale Literary Criticism Series

This group of reference works provides a comprehensive source for biographical and critical information on authors. Those that may be most useful for your research include:

Ref PS
PS 153
N5
P3
Includes writers from a variety of disciplines -- historians, social scientists, theologians, as well as authors of fiction, poetry, etc. Covers colonial times to 1977. Biographical entries with lists of works and portraits.

Black Literature Criticism (BLC)

"Excerpts from Criticism of the Most Significant Works of Black Authors over the Past 200 Years"

Similar in format to the other Gale Literary Criticism Series described below--excerpts of criticism. However, this set does contain some biographical material. There is some duplication of material from CLC, TLC, NCLC and some new material. The set is complete in three volumes.

Contemporary Literary Criticism (CLC)

"presents significant passages from published criticism of works by today's creative authors." Citations are given for each excerpt (you can then go to P.A.S.L. or ALADDIN to find the journal with the full text of the criticism). Entries are several pages long. Use the "Cumulative Index to Authors" at the end of the last volume in the series for the fullest coverage of an author.
Dictionary of Literary Biography (DLB)

Biographical—a good overview of an author’s life and work. Articles are fairly long. Selected volumes of the Dictionary of Literary Biography deal with authors of specific literary movements and genres. Use the index in the back of the latest volume or the "Index to Authors" in the last volume of CLC. Several volumes are devoted to Afro-American authors.

Dictionary of Literary Biography Documentary Series (DLB-DS)

"Depicting the Lives and Work of Authors—including Photographs, Manuscript Facsimiles, Letters, Notebooks, Interviews, and Contemporary Assessments"—from frontispiece. Each volume is devoted to only a few major authors. Many illustrations.

Dictionary of Literary Biography—Yearbook (DLB-Y)

Summarizes "current literary activity." Gives an update of the author’s work, discusses new books and other writings and includes a bibliography (with full citations) of the author’s publications, interviews, etc. for the period encompassed by the yearbook.

Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism (NCLC)

"Excerpts from Criticism of the Works of Novelists, Poets, Playwrights, Short Story Writers, Who Died between 1800 and 1900, from the First Published Critical Appraisals to Current Evaluations."

Covers a variety of genres and nationalities. An entry on an author consists of the following: author heading, biographical and critical introduction, principal works, excerpts of criticism (with citations) and additional bibliography. Entries are extensive.

Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism (TCLC)

TCLC is arranged like CLC but covers authors who died between 1900-1960, while the latter covers authors who are, for the most part, still living. Excerpts of criticism with full citations. Entries are long. In the case of multiple inclusions of an author, criticism is taken from different sources.
## ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL SOURCES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>African American Writers</strong></td>
<td>&quot;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...&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 153</td>
<td></td>
<td>Articles include brief biographies, &quot;a survey of the subject's principal writings and an assessment of the work as a whole.&quot; Also included are selected bibliographies of the subject's writings in chronological order, and lists of references for further research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>American Women Writers: A Critical Reference Guide</strong></td>
<td>&quot;[C]overs contributions to American writing by women from colonial times to the present.&quot; Entries are critical and biographical with bibliographies of the author's works. References are given for further study. Length of articles vary according to the author's significance. Four volumes, published in 1979. Use for major Afro-American women authors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 147</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td><strong>American Writers</strong></td>
<td>Long, in-depth articles containing biographical and critical information. Each article contains a bibliography of sources of criticism. A very useful source, but only for major (well known) authors. Four volumes plus several supplements (PS129 A552).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Black American Writers Past and Present: A Biographical and Bibliographical Dictionary</strong></td>
<td>A source for biographical information, a listing of all the books published by a given author, partial information about the works published in anthologies and periodicals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z 1929</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h:3</td>
<td><strong>Southern Black Creative Writers</strong></td>
<td>Includes biographical material, works, references. For in-depth research. Many of the authors included are not well known.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R87</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 vols.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Ref Magill: Critical Survey of Long Fiction
PR 821 This is a multivolume set. It consists of long
C7 1983 biographical and analytical entries with
background information on the works and their
sources. Use for well known, major Afro-American
authors.

BOOKS:
BOOKS ON INDIVIDUAL AUTHORS

Although proper names for people and places, etc. are not
included in Library of Congress Subject Headings, they can be
used as subjects in ALADDIN or the card catalog. Therefore, to
find biographies, books of criticism or bibliographies concerning
the works of a specific author, simply type s/ (for a subject
search of that author), and then enter the author’s last name,
first initial. At this point, scan the list of entries until you
find the appropriate subheading (for example —bibliography,
—criticism and interpretation, —biography)

Example:

s/hurston zon
J. Murrey Atkins Library------VTLS/ALADDIN------SUBJECTS
YOU SEARCHED: s/hurston zon

1 > 4 Hurston, Zora Neale.
2. 1 Hurston, Zora Neale — Bibliography.
3. 1 Hurston, Zora Neale — Biography — Juvenile literature.
4. 1 Hurston, Zora Neale — Criticism and interpretation.
5. 1 Hurston, Zora Neale, in fiction, drama, poetry, etc.
6. 1 Hurston, Zora Neale. Jonah’s gourd vine.
7. 1 Hurston, Zora Neale — Juvenile literature.

INDIVIDUAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES

If you are doing in depth research on an author, the best place
to begin your search is with a bibliography devoted to the work
of that author. Bibliographies will frequently be divided up by
the titles of poems, stories etc. and will direct you to
criticism on a particular work. Disadvantages are that
bibliographies may not be up to date; you will need to use
additional sources if you need recent or current criticism.
Also, they are not available on every author.

Use ALADDIN to find bibliographies concerning the works of a
specific author. Type s/ (for a subject search for books about
an author), and then enter the author’s last name and first
initial. Example: s/baldwin,j

At this point, scan the list of the author’s name and birth (and
death) dates for the subheading ——bibliography.

If you need additional help with locating books, please ask a
librarian at the 1st floor reference desk.
BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON MORE THAN ONE AUTHOR

(NOTE: Some of these sources will be more useful than others. Some of the resources they give will require the use of Inter-Library Loan. Also, some of these bibliographies are fairly old, you will need to use periodical indexes and other reference sources for more recent information.).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z 1229</td>
<td><strong>Afro-American Fiction, 1853-1976:</strong> A Guide to Information Sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N39 M37</td>
<td>Index to novels, short story collections, criticism (Chapter 3, &quot;Major Authors -- Secondary Sources&quot;), and bibliographies. Author, title, and subject indexes.</td>
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</table>

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<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z 1229</td>
<td><strong>Afro-American Literature and Culture</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N39 P4</td>
<td>Since World War II: A Guide to Information Sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A guide to writings and literature on a wide variety of topics. Part 1 is arranged by individual author. Part 2 is an index to author, title, and subject. Annotated.</td>
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<th>Ref</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Z 1229</td>
<td><strong>The Afro-American Novel 1965-1975:</strong> A Descriptive Bibliography of Primary and Secondary Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N39 H68</td>
<td>Divided into four categories: biography, novels by the authors, critical books and articles by and about the author, and reviews of the novel. Arranged by author. Annotated. Published in 1977.</td>
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<th>Ref</th>
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<tr>
<td>Z 1229</td>
<td><strong>A Bibliographical Guide to African-American Women Writers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N39 J67</td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by author with primary sources listed first and then secondary sources. In addition to books, this volume also lists stories, poems, etc. published in magazines, journals and anthologies. The time period covered is 1746-1991.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6
Ref  Black American Fiction: A Bibliography
Z  1229
N39
F34 A list of black American authors, their
fiction and criticism. Categories listed
under authors include: novels, short
fiction, book reviews, biography and
criticism. Arranged alphabetically by
author.

Ref  Black American Fiction Since 1952:
Z  A Preliminary Checklist
1361
N39
D45 A list of titles of fiction works by
black authors. Deals with the years 1952-
1969. Some annotations.

Ref  Black American Women in Literature:
Z  A Bibliography. 1976 Through 1987
1229
N39
G57
1989 "The book includes [references to] the poetry,
short fiction, novels, essays and plays by,
and criticism of, approximately 300 women whose
work has been published in periodicals and
anthologies between 1976 and 1987..."
The book is arranged alphabetically by
author. References to primary sources are given
first, then works about the author or her writings.
Abbreviations are explained in the back of the book.

Ref  Black American Women Novelists
Z  An Annotated Bibliography
1229
N39
W47
1989 References to books, journal articles,
reviews and articles in the mass media. The
author has "attempted to include all black women
novelists recognised as major figures in any
published book in the field of Afro-American studies.
This is an important source for references to
biographical and critical information on Tony
Morrison, Zora Neale Hurston, Gwendolyn Brooks, Alice
Walker, and for sources of background information on
Afro-American fiction and Afro-American women.
Extensively annotated, indexed.

Ref  Black Studies: A Bibliography
Z  1361
N39
I78 See pp. 86-92: "Biography, Memoirs, Auto-
biography." Good source for anthologies of
writings by black authors. Published in 1973.
Black Writers in New England: A Bibliography
With Biographical Notes

An index to the collection of Afro-American literature housed at the Mildred F Sawyer Library, Suffolk University, Boston, Massachusetts. Includes: biographical notes, books by the writer and books about the writer. The focus is on authors with New England connections. Note: kept in Tower.

Broadsiae Authors and Artists:
An Illustrated Biographical Directory
Biographical information on authors originally published by Broadside Press (dedicated to the publication of poems and other writings by black writers). Includes author's addresses and lists of writings. Some references. Note: kept in tower.

A Century of Fiction by American Negroes -- 1853-1952: A Descriptive Bibliography
In alphabetical order by author. Useful introductory essay. Annotated. Published in 1955.

Checklist of Twentieth Century Black American Creative Writing in the Libraries of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Bibliography of items available at UNC-CH. Arranged by author. Use for in-depth research. Published in 1972.

Index to Black American Literary Anthologies
An aid to "locating Black American literature which has been published in collections." The emphasis is on adult literature -- autobiographies, dramas, essays, fiction, poetry. Author index, title index and a list of anthologies. Published in 1979.
<table>
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<th>Ref</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ref</td>
<td><strong>Index to Black American Writers in Collective Biographies</strong></td>
<td>References to biographical information on approximately 1,100 black American writers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See &quot;Symbols and the Sources They Represent,&quot; (pp. 23-46) for full citations. Published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ref</td>
<td><strong>Magill's Bibliography of Literary Criticism</strong></td>
<td>This is an excellent source for criticism, but will be useful mainly for major authors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged by author with titles of individual works arranged under author entries. Four</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>volumes; title index in Vol. 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ref</td>
<td><strong>SHORT STORIES: SOURCES FOR CRITICISM</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>The Afro-American Short Story: A Comprehensive, Annotated Index with</strong></td>
<td>Author and title indexes, chronology of when stories were published with cross references</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Selected Commentaries</strong></td>
<td>to author and commentaries. Three hundred authors and over eight hundred fifty stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>are listed. Published in 1986. Use this as a source for locating primary sources in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>anthologies, collections, periodicals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ref</td>
<td><strong>Magill: Critical Survey of Short Fiction</strong></td>
<td>This is a very useful source for criticism of short fiction. Biographical and analytical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>entries. Short bibliographies at the ends of articles. An author/title index is located</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>in the back of volume 7. Volumes 1 and 2 contain essays on the history and craft of short</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>fiction from various cultures and time periods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ref</td>
<td><strong>Short Story Criticism</strong></td>
<td>Similar to Contemporary Literary Criticism. Entries consist of excerpts of criticism with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>full citations. (You may then go to P.A.S.L. or ALADDIN to locate the complete text of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>the criticism). Entries are several pages long. There is a Story Title Index and a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cumulative Index which cross references to the entire Gale series.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This is a useful checklist of criticism on short stories; organized by author and story title. Includes major authors from America and England as well as several other non-English-language countries. Author index.

Updated by:

Full citations of the books used are listed in the back of the book under the name of the critic. Index to authors. Various supplements to these volumes are shelved with them.

Indexed in:

POETRY: SOURCES FOR CRITICISM

REFERENCE BOOKS
(useful for background information on poets)

"The entry for each poet consists of a biography, a complete list of separately published books, and a signed essay." Articles are two to three pages long.

"...a comprehensive overview of poets, their works, and the poetic genre in general." This is a good source for beginning your research. Biographical information and analysis of major poems. Arranged alphabetically by poet. The index to poets and poem titles is in Volume 8. A circulating edition is kept in the tower.
POETRY: SOURCES OF CRITICISM ON INDIVIDUAL POEMS

The titles listed here are arranged alphabetically by poet, and then, by title of the poem.

Ref
Z
1231
P7
A44
1984

One of the best places to start your search. Comprehensive. Includes criticism on poems of 1000 lines or less. Sources include books and journal articles. Full citations are in "Sources," pp. 475-486. Arranged alphabetically by poet.

Ref
PR
89
C5

"A ready-reference source for criticisms of poems by British and American poets." Covers "from the earliest period to the twentieth century." Entries are to citations in collections of criticism and in scholarly periodicals.

Part 1 lists poets (arranged alphabetically), poem titles, and critic citations. Citations for criticism give the critic's name, page and entry number in brackets. Look up the critic's name in Part 2 to find the complete citation. A "List of Periodical Abbreviations" is on page X. There is an index to poem titles on pages 271-307.


Ref
PN
1010
P64

Another title from the Gale Literary Criticism Series. "...substantial critical excerpts and biographical information on the world's most frequently discussed and studied poets..." An ongoing series. The cumulative author index in the back of the newest volume will direct you to the correct volume of Poetry Criticism for your poet as well as other titles in the Gale Literary Criticism Series.
Ref  Poetry Explication: A Checklist of Interpretation  
Z  Since 1945 of British and American Poems  
2014  Past and Present  
P7  K8  A source for criticism on major poems of British and American authors. References are primarily to journal articles. Arranged alphabetically by poet and poem title. An important source. Up to date through 1978.

Supplemented by:

Ref  Guide to American Poetry Explication  
Z  Vol. 2: Modern and Contemporary  
1231  PZ  L46  1989  and

Ref  Guide to American Poetry Explication  
Z  Vol. 1: Colonial and Nineteenth Century  
1231  P7  R66  1989  These volumes update Poetry Explication. They give sources for criticism in journals and books. Arranged by poet and then by poem title. Abbreviations to journal titles are in the front. Full citations to books are in "Main Sources Consulted" at the back of the volumes.

POETRY: SOURCES FOR IN-DEPTH RESEARCH  
(Use for less well known authors)

The following titles are useful for more extensive or in-depth research. Some of the references in these bibliographies may require the use of Interlibrary Loan (ask at the reference desk).

Ref  Afro-American Poetry and Drama, 1760-1975: A Guide to Information Sources  
Z  N39  A37  This is volume 17 of the "Gale Literatures in English" series. It is comprehensive -- "the authors have tried to include all books and pamphlets of poetry by black authors born in the United States" and all plays of published black playwrights. Part 1 includes references to critical and historical studies relating to Afro-American poetry. Part 2 is arranged alphabetically by poet. Primary works are listed first, followed by secondary works. Part 2, the drama section, is arranged as follows: 1) a brief list of major library
sources, 2) a list of Afro-American drama periodicals, 3) a list of general bibliographies, 4) collections of plays, 5) critical studies. Next is an alphabetical listing of playwrights with references to "published plays, unpublished plays, collected plays, biography and criticism." Author, title and subject indexes. Published in 1979.

Ref
Z
1231
P7
M37
1986

The Bibliography of Contemporary American Poetry, 1945-1985: An Annotated Checklist

This bibliography is a source of bibliographical studies on contemporary American poets. Entries are arranged alphabetically by poet. The individual "writings" concentrates on poets whose reputations have been established since 1945.

Ref
Z
1229
N39
C45
1986

Index to Poetry by Black American Women

If you need to locate a poem by a Black American Woman, this book will lead you to it. "In all, over four thousand poems by over four hundred female poets are included. The volume is organized in three major sections: the Title and First Line Index, the Author Index, and the Subject Index." Abbreviations are explained in the "Key to Abbreviations for Books Indexed."

Ref
Z
1361
N39
P6

North American Negro Poets:
A Bibliographical Checklist of Their Writings, 1765-1944

"Books and pamphlets by individual poets: anthologies edited by Negro authors and a few printed broadsides." Gives locations for items. Most items would require inter-library loan.
In addition to standard sources such as the Gale Literary Criticism Series, you might find the following useful.

**Ref**  
**Z**  
**1229**  
**N39**  
**A7**

**Black American Playwrights, 1800 to the Present: A Bibliography**

Lists "black playwrights and their works, together with criticisms, reviews and awards." Includes a general bibliography with full citations, and an index of titles. Published in 1976. Updated by **More Black American Playwrights: A Bibliography**, which adds an additional three hundred authors. (Ref Z1229 N39 A73). Published in 1978. Both of these are good sources for reviews.

**Ref**  
**PS**  
**153**  
**N5**  
**P44**  
**1990**

**Early Black American Playwrights and Dramatic Writers: A Biographical Directory and Catalog of Plays, Films, and Broadcasting Scripts**

Includes biographical material, an annotated list of major works, lists of "Other Pertinent Writings" and sources for further reference.

**Ref**  
**PN**  
**1721**  
**C74**  
**1985**  
**6 vols.**

**Magill: Critical Survey of Drama, English Language Series**

Long biographical and analytical entries. Short bibliographies at the ends of articles. Author/title index is located in the back of Vol. 6. Analytical synopses of major plays. This is an excellent source for criticism.

**DRAMA: CHECKLISTS AND COLLECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHIES**

**Ref**  
**Z**  
**1231**  
**D7**  
**P3**  
**1979**

**American Drama Criticism: Interpretations, 1890-1977**

"Interpretations of American plays published in books, periodicals, and monographs...alphabetical by playwrights, with plays alphabetized under the playwright's name."
Updated by a supplement (Ref Z1231 D7 P3 1984).

Ref
Drama Criticism
Z
1231
Vol. 1, 1966
D7
Vol. 1: A checklist of interpretations since
C6
1940 of English and American Plays--from the
earliest known plays to those of the 20th
century. This source gives references to
criticism appearing in periodicals and books
published between 1940 and 1964.

Ref
Modern Drama: Scholarship and Criticism, 1966-
Z
1980, an International Bibliography
5781
"[A] classified, selective list of publications
C37
[based on world drama since
1986
Ibsen." Approaches drama as literature. Entries
are arranged by nationality and then alpha-
alphabetically by playwright. Listings are
extensive but not subdivided by play titles.
See abbreviations (pp. 3-14) for full titles of
journals. This bibliography is a major
reference source for drama criticism; however,
none of the sources cited will require
interlibrary loan.

Ref
Research Guide to Bibliography and Criticism:
Z
World Drama
5781
Includes for each author: annotated biblio-
R47
graphies of sources for biographies, autobio-
1986
graphies, critical sources, and a list of
additional sources, including relevant
dictionaries and encyclopedias. Indexed. An
excellent reference for in-depth research on a
playwright.
BOOK REVIEWS

For some authors, book reviews may be the only source of criticism you will be able to find. For other authors, book reviews are excellent supplements to the information located in books and reference works.

The two best sources for book reviews are:

INDEX
Z
1219
C95

Book Review Digest

"Book Review Digest" provides excerpts and citations to reviews of current fiction and non-fiction written in English. Arranged by author and then by book title. Use the index for the year your book was first published and the following year's index.

Yearly since 1905.

INDEX
Z
1035
A1
B6

Book Review Index

Indexes more sources than Book Review Digest, but does not provide excerpts. Begins with 1965. 1965 through 1968 are yearly volumes. 1969 through 1979 are cumulated and after that the index is again yearly. Entries are arranged by author and then by book title. Codes for sources are explained in the front of each volume.

See also the book review sections at the ends of:

Humanities Index (INDEX AI3 R492)

Library Literature (INDEX Z666 S211)

InfoTrac is also an excellent source for book reviews written within the past five to ten years. Be sure to consult both parts of the "Expanded Academic Index" and the "Newspaper Index."
### Children's Literature

**Ref**  
**Black Authors and Illustrators of Children's Books: A Biographical Dictionary**  
1037  
R63  
1988  

"[A]. . . reference volume in which the works of black authors and artists are recognized in relation to their particular contributions to children's literature." The 115 entries are to 20th century authors or illustrators. Arrangement is alphabetical. Contains a selected bibliography of primary sources. There are no references to criticism.

**Tower**  
**The Black Experience in Children's Books**  
Z  
1361  
N39  
B2  
1971  

Geographical and thematic approach.  
Annotated. Published in 1971.  
Two volumes. Kept in the tower.
PERIODICAL INDEXES

Most journals are indexed in one or more periodical indexes. Indexes range from the very broad in scope to those more specialized by discipline. Indexes are generally arranged alphabetically by subject; relevant citations follow each heading. The citation includes:

- Author(s) of the journal article
- Title of the journal article
- a list of abbreviation is located in the front of the index volume
- Volume number, and if available, issue number of the journal
- Page(s) on which the article appears
- Date of the journal

Naming and power in Zora Neale Hurston's Their eyes were watching God. S. King. bibl Black Am Lit Forum 24:683-96 Wint' 90

volume number date author title of journal (abbreviated) pages article abbreviation
This index is useful for in-depth research. It indexes journals, bulletins, newsletters, etc. Arranged chronologically. Look in the table of contents in order to locate sections on 19th and 20th century American authors. Once you are in the correct section, look for your author by his or her name.

Abstracts of English Studies
v. 1-21 1958-78 (22 1978-79) 23- 1979-

This is a quarterly index to articles (with short abstracts) dealing with American and English literature.

You find the author's name in a cumulated "Index C" in the back of each volume. Periodical abbreviations are explained in "Index A".

Atkins Library subscribes to many of the journals indexed in this source.

Essay and General Literature Index
1900-

This is an important bibliographical index to collections of essays in books. The emphasis is on the humanities and the social sciences. Material under a person (author, etc.) is arranged as follows: 1. Author's works; 2. Works about the author (biographical or overall discussions of his/her work); 3. Criticism. Semiannual with a permanent cumulation every five years.

Atkins Library purchases all of the books indexed, making this an especially useful source. Check ALADDIN call numbers.
### Humanities Index

**AI 3 R492**

Cumulative index to English-language periodicals. Author and subject entries are in one alphabet. It includes language and literature subjects as well as other humanities areas.

This is an excellent index for articles on African-American authors.

### Index to Black Periodicals

**AI 3 I57**

Index to Periodicals By and About Blacks 1973-1983

Index to Periodicals By and About Negroes 1980-70-72

Index to Selected Periodicals Received in the Hallie Q. Brown Library 1980-80

"An index to Afro-American periodicals of general and scholarly interest. Author and subject entries are interfiled in a single alphabet. Uses Library of Congress subject headings.

### Microfilm

**AI 3 G84**

Guide to Negro Periodical Literature

Precedes the above printed indexes. Use for in-depth research. Four volumes on one reel. Kept in the 2nd floor periodicals microfilm collection.
The *MLA* is a major index to books and articles published on modern languages, literature, folklore, and linguistics. Since it is available in CD-ROM format starting with 1981, it is mainly useful for locating articles, books, and dissertations published prior to that time period.

From 1981 to the present, this index consists of two parts. Prior years were complete in one volume and are arranged in a similar fashion to Part 1 of the index as it is now formatted. Part 1 is arranged by country or type of literature and then by period and author. Volume I contains citations to British and American literature. Most references to African-American authors will be listed in the section "American Literature 1900-1999."

Look up the abbreviations for periodical titles in the front pages of Part 1.

Part 2 is arranged in alphabetical order by subject and serves as an index to Part 1. The Roman numeral refers to the volume of Part 1 and the rest of the number to the specific entry.

Part 2 indicates the CLASSIFIED section in PART 1 for a given author or entry and also lists entries that will not be found directly under the author's name. Full citations are in Part 1.
MLA on CD-ROM

The easiest way for you to search for recent journal articles on the works of an author or a literary topic will be to use the computerised version of the MLA International Bibliography. The volumes since 1981 to within a few months of the present are available in CD-ROM (compact disk, read only memory) format. This version of the MLA contains a year or so more information than the printed index. You may search by author, title of work, and by keyword. Two keywords, such as an author’s last name and a theme or an identifying word from a title or theory, may be combined using “boolean” commands (”and,” “or”). You will not need to search on the word “criticism” because just about everything in the index refers to criticism.

You may limit your search by language, by publication type, and by date of publication. There is a handout near the machines which explains how to use the various searching strategies. You are encouraged to make an appointment in advance to use MLA on CD-ROM. If you need assistance a librarian will help you.

Notes and WORD OF WARNING:

1. Both the printed and the computerised versions of the MLA International Bibliography contain references to books and doctoral dissertations as well as to articles. Atkins library does not have any of the dissertations. These will be listed as DAI in the printed version and Dissertations Abstracts International in the computerised version of the index. You can limit a search in the computer to find references by a specific publication type, for example, periodical articles and books, but not dissertations. (You enter the phrase pt=journal article and combine the result with the “set number” for your search.). The books listed are books of essays. Check for them in ALADDIN by the title of the book (not the book chapter) or by the editor’s name (This comes after the word “IN” in the CD version). Also, there are many foreign language articles in the index. You can also limit your search by language when using the CD (For example: enter the phrase la=english. Combine this with your results from you search.). The library does not own all of the items referenced in the MLA. If we do not have the source you need, you may try to get it via interlibrary loan (this takes 2 to 4 weeks).

2. Finally, do not depend on either version of the MLA for all of your research. In many if not most cases, there will be better and easier-to-locate sources of information in books and reference books. The MLA is important for recent information. However, the MLA (both printed and CD-ROM versions) is not the best source for authors who have themselves recently (the time will vary) started publishing. If you do not find much about a new author in this source try InfoTrac, or, try Book Review Index or Book Review Digest.