

Literary Resources

Students may find numerous resources to aid in literary research, including MLA and APA instructions, at the IRSC Academic Support Center's Web site:

<http://irsc-asc.weebly.com/research-paper.html>

Electronic research topics available on ASC Web site*

Literary Genres

- [Analyzing Literature](#)
- [L-1: Analyzing a Short Story](#)
- [L-2: Analyzing a Novel](#)
- [L-3: Understanding Poetry](#)
- [L-4: Analyzing a Poem](#)
- [L-5: Figures of Speech](#)
- [L-6: The Literary Present](#)
- [L-7: Quotation Customs](#)
- [L-8: Analyzing Drama](#)
- [W-7: Textual Analysis](#)

Research Guidelines

- [Getting Started](#)
- [Develop a Topic](#)
- [Develop a Thesis](#)
- [Locate Sources](#)
- [Take Notes](#)
- [Develop an Outline](#)
- [Write Your Paper](#)
- [Plagiarism](#)

MLA Resources

- [Condensed MLA Guide](#)
- [MLA Format](#)
- [IRSC Libraries Quick Guide](#)
- [IRSC Libraries MLA Guide](#)
- [MLA Special Situations](#)
- [MLA Punctuation](#)
- [Titles of Works](#)
- [MLA Sample Papers](#)

* Hard copies are also available at all IRSC Academic Support Centers

Tips for conducting literary research

- Know if your instructor has placed any books in the Reserve Collection of the library. The library offers photocopiers.
- Consult the IRSC Libraries site for data bases and printed materials related to books or authors.
<https://irsc.libguides.com/c.php?g=824505>
- Browse the IRSC library reference collections to find sources of literary criticism.
- Request interlibrary loan for articles or books not available in IRSC library.
- Ask for assistance (if necessary) by calling a member of the library staff at (772) 462-7600, or use Ask a Librarian at <http://irsc.libguides.com/friendly.php?s=askalibrarian>
- Search the Internet for information concerning authors and their works. For research purposes, do not use Wikipedia as a source; instead, look for .edu and/or .org sites.

Sample English/literary resources available through IRSC Libraries site:

http://www.linccweb.org/eresources.aspx?lib_code=FLCC1200&screen=subject

This site will provide links to the following literary resources.

The library in Academic Search Complete (EBSCO) contains full-text information on a wide range of subjects, including indexing and abstracts for journals and publications.

Essay & General Literature Index (EBSCO) offers access to essays contained in anthologies and collections. Coverage includes literary works, art history, drama, and film.

Humanities Source (EBSCO) includes full text for journals with citations to articles, including book reviews. Coverage includes content pertaining to literary, scholarly, and creative thought.

JSTOR provides access to back issues of core journals in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences.

Literary Reference Center is a full text database that combines information from reference works, books, and literary journals. This resource includes plot summaries, synopses, and work overviews; articles of literary criticism; author biographies; full text of literary journals; book reviews; classic and contemporary poems and short stories; full texts of classic novels; author interviews; and images of key literary figures.

The Literature Resource Center (Gale) is an online literature database offering a broad and representative range of authors and their works, including a collection of full-text critical and literary analysis.

Gale Literary Sources provides information on authors and their works, literary movements or genres, and book reviews, including full texts of literary works, journal articles, literature criticism and analysis, reviews, and author biographies.

Sage Journals (Sage Publications) includes journals spanning the humanities, social sciences, and science, technology, and medicine.

Salem Literature is an online database that includes the complete content of printed reference sets.

Find books or journals using IRSC Libraries

<https://irsc.libguides.com/c.php?g=824505>

Note: When doing research, you may search by author, title, or key words to find books and articles written about authors and/or their works. To access library databases, you might need a Borrower ID and PIN. Your Borrower ID is your student ID number. Your PIN is the MMDD of your birth. For example, if your birthday is July 31, your PIN is 0731.

Useful Web sites for literary research

- **English Literature Links** is a collection of links to sites on the Internet dealing especially with English and American literature.
<http://www.literature-study-online.com/resources/>
- **The Literary Link** offers searchable online literature topics, including a quotations database.
<http://theliterarylink.com/sources.html>
- **NAPA Valley College** offers links to literary websites concerning a wide range of topics.
<http://www.napavalley.edu/Library/Pages/EnglishWebResources.aspx>
- **Authors on the Web** provides biographies of authors.
<http://www.people.virginia.edu/~jbh/author.html>
- **Online Literary Criticism Guide** is a compilation of literary resources and links on the Internet.
<https://www.uv.es/~fores/programa/IPLliterarycritic.html>
- **American Literature** offers information on authors, short stories, novels, essays, and poems.
<https://www.uv.es/~fores/programa/IPLliterarycritic.html>

Note: Author specific Web sites are also plentiful. A few examples include the following.

- Angelou, Maya – <http://www.mayaangelou.com/>
- Faulkner, William – http://mwp.olemiss.edu//dir/faulkner_william/
- Fitzgerald, F. Scott – <http://sc.edu/fitzgerald/>
- Hurston, Zora Neale – <http://www.zoranealehurston.com/>
- Shakespeare, William - <https://www.folger.edu/shakespeares-life>

Avoiding Plagiarism

When writing a research paper, you must credit all of your sources (even if you are not directly quoting them). For a complete guide to issues concerning plagiarism, visit the IRSC library link.

<http://irsc.libguides.com/c.php?g=146543&p=962203>

General Guidelines

1. When using direct quotations, take care to use the exact wording, spelling, and punctuation of the original source and to credit the source. If you use the exact wording of a research source, you must indicate with quotation marks where the direct quote begins and ends.

Example:

According to insurance investigator Joyce Mulroney, “All of our independent researchers have discovered that texting is the primary cause of automotive mishaps among teenagers.”

2. When paraphrasing or summarizing (putting someone else’s ideas into your own words), you still must credit the original source.

Example:

Joyce Mulroney, an insurance investigator, cites studies that most automobile accidents involving teenagers are a direct result of texting while driving.

3. Even if you substitute a few words from an original quote, you must cite the original source.

Example:

One insurance investigator, Joyce Mulroney, claims that independent research indicates that texting is “the primary cause of automotive mishaps among teenagers.”

4. You do not have to provide credit for concepts that are considered common knowledge.

Example

Texting while driving has become a common topic of debate among Americans.

Note: For further information concerning plagiarism, see the IRSC Library tutorial.

<http://irsc.libguides.com/c.php?g=146543&p=962203>