This guide discusses only some of the resources that are available in the Libraries. Most of these resources can be found in the Bartle Reference Collection. Some can be accessed via the web. Additional resources can be found in the reference collection and in the third floor stacks.

If you need a detailed study of a work, consult the guide on LITERARY CRITICISM.

I. ONLINE RESOURCES

These licensed databases are available to Binghamton University students and faculty only. Use the following address http://libraryguides.binghamton.edu/english and look under “Databases & Journal Indexes.”

Contemporary Authors
   The primary resource for information on modern authors, including those who were active prior to 1960 and whose works continue to influence contemporary literature.

Dictionary of Literary Biography
   Provides nearly 10,000 biographical and critical essays on the lives, works, and careers of the world's most influential literary figures from all eras and genres.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

These resources provide information ranging from brief to detailed and can be excellent starting points for research. Some provide references to additional resources.

Reader’s Encyclopedia of American Literature  Ref PN41.B4 2002
Columbia Dictionary of Modern European Literature  Ref PN71.C575 1980
Continuum Encyclopedia of Modern Criticism and Theory  Ref PN94.C695 2002
Encyclopedia of Fable  Ref PN980.S66 1998
Encyclopedia of Folklore and Literature  Ref PN41.E48 1998
Encyclopedia of Literary Critics and Criticism  Ref PN74.E53 1999
Encyclopedia of Literature  Ref PN41.M42 1995
Encyclopedia of Rhetoric  Ref PN172.E52 2001
Encyclopedia of Traditional Epics  Ref PN56.E65.E64 1994
Encyclopedia of Utopian Literature  Ref PN56.U8.S66 1995
Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century  Ref PN771.E5 1999
**Index to Literary Biography**
Ref PN451.H38

**Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism**
Ref PN81.J64 2005

**Literature Lover’s Companion**
Ref PN451.L57 2001

**New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics**
Ref PN1021.E5 1993

**Routledge Encyclopedia of Narrative Theory**
Ref PN212.R68 2005

Oxford Companion series. These well-researched volumes are filled with concise information on authors, works, movements, etc.

**New Oxford Companion to Literature in French**
Ref PQ41.N48 1995

**Oxford Companion to American Literature**
Ref PS21.H3 1995

**Oxford Companion to Canadian Literature**
Ref PR9180.2.O93 1997

**Oxford Companion to Classical Literature**
Ref DE5.H3 1989

**Oxford Companion to English Literature**
Ref PR19.O94 2000

**Oxford Companion to German Literature**
Ref PT41.G3 1997

**III. NOVELS**

These resources provide general information about the novel.

**Fiction Catalog**
Ref PN3451.W74 (Ref. Desk)
Lists novels by subject. Includes translations of foreign writers from all countries and time periods.

**Reader’s Guide to the Spy and Thriller Novel**
Ref PN3448.D4S76 1997

**Encyclopedia of the Novel**
Ref PN41.E487 1998

**IV. POEMS, PLAYS, and SHORT STORIES**

These resources can help you locate a specific short literary work.

**Granger’s Index to Poetry in Anthologies**
Ref PN1021.G7 1997

**Granger’s Index to Poetry in Collected and Selected Works**
Ref PN1022.C63 1996

**Index to Plays in Periodicals**
Ref PN1721.K45

**Ottemiller’s Index to Plays in Collections**
Ref PN1655.O88 (Ref. Desk)

**Play Index**
Ref PN1655.P53

**Short Story Index**
Ref PN3451.C64

**V. LITERARY TERMS**

Definitions and/or explanations of figures of speech, genres, and literary or critical terms.

**Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms**
Ref PN41.M874 1997

**Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrase and Fable**
Ref PN43.B65 2005

**Dictionary of Concepts in Literary Criticism & Theory**
Ref PN41.H36 1992

**Dictionary of Critical Theory**
Ref PN98.S6.O77 1991
### VI. ALLUSIONS, THEMES, and MOTIFS

These resources deal with allusions, themes, or motifs that recur in literary works.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allusions</td>
<td>PN43.A4</td>
<td>1986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dictionary of Historical Allusions and Eponyms</td>
<td>PN43.A83</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictionary of Literary Themes and Motifs</td>
<td>PN43.D48</td>
<td>1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motif Index of Folk Literature (Vol. 6 indexes the set)</td>
<td>GR67.T52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Themes and Motifs in Western Literature</td>
<td>PN43.D3313</td>
<td>1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type and Motif Index of the Folklore of England and North America</td>
<td>GR67.B3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VII. CHARACTERS

These resources list and discuss literary characters in the context of the works in which they appear.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Characters in 20th Century Literature</td>
<td>PN56.4.C4</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclopedia of Literary Characters</td>
<td>PN44.M3</td>
<td>1998</td>
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</table>

### VIII. PLOT SUMMARIES

These resources provide short summaries of literary works. Some provide brief critical analyses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500 Plays</td>
<td>PN6112.5.F58</td>
<td>1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masterpieces of World Literature</td>
<td>PN44.M3448</td>
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<td>Masterplots (Revised Second Edition)</td>
<td>PN44.M32</td>
<td>1996</td>
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<td>Masterplots II</td>
<td>PN846.M37</td>
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<td>American Fiction Series</td>
<td>PN6112.5.M37</td>
<td>2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drama Series</td>
<td>PN3326.M37</td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Fiction Series</td>
<td>PN3326.M27</td>
<td>2004</td>
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<td>Short Story Series</td>
<td>PN471.M37</td>
<td>1995</td>
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<td>Women's Literature Series</td>
<td>PN3326.M28</td>
<td>1987</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Fiction Series</td>
<td>PN44.P58</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plot Locator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IX. SPECIAL GENRES

These resources provide general information about two special areas.

A. Science Fiction and Fantasy

- Anatomy of Wonder
- Critical Terms for Science Fiction and Fantasy
- Encyclopedia of Science Fiction
- Fantasy Literature
- Magill’s Guide to Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature
- Science-Fiction: The Early Years
- St. James Guide to Fantasy Writers
- Supernatural Fiction Writers

B. Women’s Literature

- Bloomsbury Guide to Women’s Literature
- Cambridge Guide to Women’s Writing in English
- Encyclopedia of Continental Women Writers
- Encyclopedia of Feminist Literary Theory
- Feminist Writers
- The Gay and Lesbian Literary Heritage
- Gay & Lesbian Literature
- Great Women Writers
- Women’s Literature A-Z
- Women Writers of Great Britain and Europe