

Resurrection High School Library
7500 West Talcott Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60631

GALE LITERATURE RESOURCE CENTER DATABASE GUIDE SHEET

URL: <http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/reshs>

If you need the password to access this database, pick up a blue sheet in the library.

The Gale Literature Resource Center is an excellent source for material related to literature. You can find overviews of novels to help you choose a book to research, literary criticism from books and journals, and biographical information on authors.

The LRC contains *Contemporary Authors*, *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, *Merriam Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature*, *Scribner's Writers Series*, and *Twayne's Authors Series*. It includes biographies and critical analyses of authors from every age and discipline. You can also link to the **Gale Literary Index** to help you find articles in Gale's many print volumes. The database also includes a significant number of primary sources (like interviews) and original literary works (like poems).

Some basic ways to use the database and helpful features are listed below. For more help, see Library staff or take advantage of the assistance provided within the database. Right under the blue Literature Resource Center horizontal bar, there is a link for **Guided Tour**. This is an 8-minute PowerPoint presentation that introduces you to key features. You can also click on the **Guided Tour** link and then click on the **About LRC** link. This link provides the same kind of information in the PowerPoint presentation. There is also a **Help** link to the left of the **Guided Tour** link. Clicking on this link opens a Table of Contents where you can select from various topics. Clicking on a topic opens a further level in the Table of Contents to help you find more specific help. You can click on the **Help** link at any point in your search.

Within the **Guided Tour** link, you can access Gale's **Research Guide**. This outline walks you through the research process, from choosing a topic to revising your paper.

Basic Search

The Basic Search screen works well when you are searching for information about an author or a book. Gale suggests using the **Keyword** radio button and entering the author's last name and the title of the work in the **Search** box. The **Guided Tour** or the information in **About LRC** can help you decide when it would be more useful to use other options.

One of the most useful ways to limit your search is by **Content Type**. If you are looking for biographical information about an author, then make sure that only the **Biographies** checkbox is marked. Similarly, it might be helpful to limit your search to **Topic & Work Overviews** when you are trying to decide which book to read for your literary criticism research paper. By doing this, you will retrieve a small number of articles that will introduce you to the plot and the main characters and themes. Then you can more easily decide if you would enjoy the book.

(over)

If you don't limit your search by **Content Type** when you first enter it, you will have an opportunity to select results based on **Content Type** later.

Results List

Once you have entered a **Search** and received a list of **Results**, the Literature Resource Center provides more tools to assist you. If you did not limit by **Content Type** when first entering your search, there are 6 tabs along the top of the **Results** page that allow you to narrow the **Results** list by **Content Type**: Literature Criticism, Biographies, Topic & Work Overviews, Reviews & News, Primary Sources & Literary Works, and Multimedia. Using the left-side menu you can **Narrow Results** by **Subject** or you can **Search Within Results**. There is also a drop-down menu that allows you to **Sort** results by **Date of Publication** or **Document Title**.

When you click on the title of one of the hits in your **Results** list, you will be taken to the article, chapter, etc. Along the right side, there is a **Tools** box where you can click on **Print Preview** if you wish to print, **E-mail** the article to yourself (don't do this on the computers at Res), or **Download** the article to a flash drive or your network drive. Under the article's title information, there is a link to **Bookmark this Document** which gives you a unique URL for the document to help you retrieve it at a later date. If you scroll down to the bottom of the document, Gale provides a **Source Citation** for the document in MLA format.

Other Features

The Literature Resource Center has several features that are very useful.

You can link to the **Gale Literary Index** along the blue horizontal navigation bar at the top of the page. The **Literary Index** is a quick and easy way to find material on your book or author in all of Gale's print volumes, like *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*, *American Writers*, and *British Writers*. Print this information before you go to a library and you will be able to go directly to the appropriate volume and page number. You can even check the library catalog ahead of time to make sure your library has the series and volumes you need.

By clicking on the **Dictionaries** link (above the blue horizontal navigation bar), you can access either the **Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature** or the **Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary**. Both of these tools will help you when you come across unfamiliar words and terms in materials you've found in the Literature Resource Center. The link opens in a new window so you can have these tools at your fingertips as you research.

This is just a basic introduction to this database. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask library staff for assistance.