

Subject guide

English Literature

Arts

What should I do first?

- Do you understand your topic? Ask your lecturer or tutor for help if you do not.
- For assistance with formulating a search strategy, refer to the **Library Research Tutorial**.

Getting Started

For an overview of your topic or to find definitions of terms, try some of the following reference resources.

They can include general and specialised dictionaries and encyclopedias in both printed and electronic format. You can search for these titles using the **Griffith University Library Catalogue**.

- A Glossary of Contemporary Literary Theory
- A Glossary of Literary Terms
- An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory
- Critical Keywords in Literary and Cultural Theory
- Literary Terms and Criticism
- A Dictionary of Writers and their Works
- International Who's Who in Poetry
- The Oxford Companion to English Literature
- Literary Research Guide : an Annotated Listing of Reference Sources in English Literary Studies
- The Cambridge History of English and American Literature
- Book Review Digest

Finding More Information

There are a variety of resources that can provide background and more detailed information on your topic. Search the library catalogue using keywords to locate books and other resources such as audiovisual material. When you find an item that looks relevant, look at the subject headings assigned to that record to provide ideas for other keyword searching.

Browsing the library shelves can also be a useful strategy. Here are some specific classification numbers to browse.

www.griffith.edu.au/library

Subject Heading	Call Number Ranges
English Literature	PR9680
Romanticism	PN750 – PN759
Gothic Revival (Literature)	PR408.G68
Shelly, Mary Wollstonecraft, 1797-1851	PR5398

Locating Up-To-Date Information

Journal or newspaper articles are a valuable source of information as they are more up-to-date than books.

Articles may be available online or in print. If the full text article is not available online, search the library catalogue using the title of the journal to see if it is held in the periodical/newspaper collections in the library.

The best way to search for articles is to use databases such as those listed below. You can access these through the Library Resources section of the library website.

Database Name	Database Info
JSTOR	Via Databases
MLA International Bibliography	Via Databases
Aust:Lit	Via Databases
Expanded Academic ASAP	Via Databases
Romanticism	Via Databases
Project Muse	Via Databases

Ensure that you use relevant keywords when searching databases. Subject thesauri may be useful to find keywords.

For assistance using databases, ask Library and IT Help or use the database help guide.

Surfing the Web

Use the Web to supplement the information you have already found.

The quality of websites varies and each must be evaluated according to criteria such as:

- Authorship - what are the credentials of the author?
- Origin - who hosts the site e.g. university or commercial enterprise?
- Reliability - is the website stable?
- Currency - when was the website last updated?
- Accuracy - does the author cite the sources used?

A selection of scholarly Internet websites for your topic is listed below. Please note that the links below will open in a new window.

Web Resource
Alex Catalogue of Electronic Texts http://www.infomotions.com/alex/
Project Gutenberg http://promo.net/pg/
Shakespeare Online http://www.shakespeare-online.com/
Wired for Books http://wiredforbooks.org/
eBooks@Adelaide (University of Adelaide) http://etext.library.adelaide.edu.au/

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