

How to Find Information about Literature

Search LITERATURE RESOURCE CENTER with These Helpful Tips

Literature Resource Center, provides access to biographies, bibliographies, and critical analysis of authors from every age. It covers over 120,000 novelists, poets, essayists, journalists, and other writers. Many articles in the database are available **full-text**. The entire article is online.

How to Use Literature Resource Center

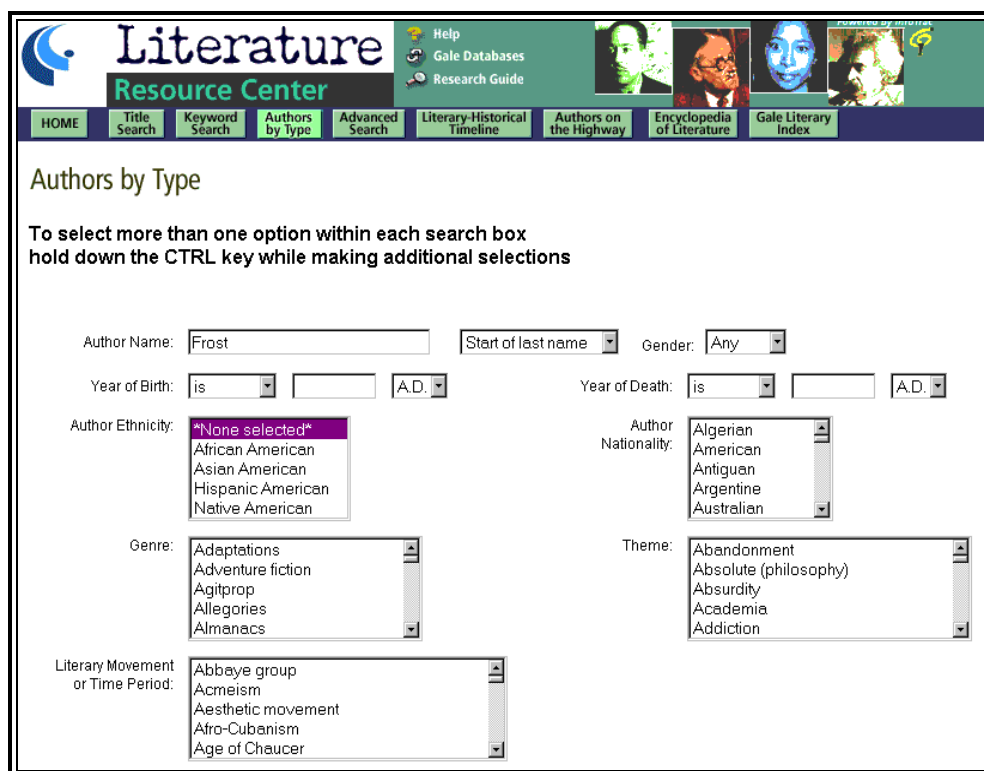
- Open it from the Alphabetical List of ALADIN's "**Articles & Other Databases**" or from the Arts/Humanities/Religion list. ALADIN is <http://www.aladin.wrlc.org/>
- Click on Literature Resource Center, then click on "Proceed" and choose "Literature Resource Center."
- You can search in a variety of ways.
- To do an Author Search, **Enter Author**, last name first and then first name if known.
- You can also search by **Title** of work.
- Or do an **Advanced Search** to enter more than one search term. That option looks like this:

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' interface of the Literature Resource Center. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, Title Search, Keyword Search, Authors by Type, Advanced Search, Literary-Historical Timeline, Authors on the Highway, Encyclopedia of Literature, and Gale Literary Index. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'Advanced Search'. The main content area prompts the user to 'Enter search term(s) and select index type. Indicate choice of Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT)'. There are three search input fields. The first field contains 'frost, robert' and is set to 'Author-name contains' with an 'AND' operator. The second field contains 'road not taken' and is set to 'Title-any words' with an 'AND' operator. The third field is empty and is set to 'Author-name contains'. Below the search fields are 'Search' and 'Clear Form' buttons. Underneath, there is a section for 'Limit the current search (optional)' with two dropdown menus: 'Document Type' (set to '*All Types*') and 'Database' (set to '*All Databases*'). The 'Document Type' dropdown lists 'Autobiographical Essay', 'Biographical Essay', and 'Critical Essay'. The 'Database' dropdown lists 'Contemporary Authors', 'Contemporary Literary Criticism-Select', and 'Dictionary of Literary Biography'. Below these dropdowns are 'Search' and 'Clear Form' buttons. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with links for Home, Help, Search Tips, Research Guide, Gale Databases, Contact Gale, and Comments.

Help! I don't know the author's name or his works.

Can I do a search by Genre or Time Period?

- **Authors by Type** allows you to do a variety of topical searches such as: **genre**, **literary movement/time period** and **literary themes**.
- In the **genre** search, you can choose from an extensive list, such as *Baseball Stories*, *Christian Drama*, *Tragedy*.
- In the **literary movement/time period** search you can choose from key terms such as: *American Modern Period*, *Baroque Age*, *Theater of the Absurd*.
- In the **literary themes** search, you can choose from an extensive list of terms, some examples are: *Abandonment*, *The American South*, *Chivalry*.
- NOTE: Searching by **genre**, **literary movement** or **literary theme**, will result in a list of authors that are known for their writings in that particular area, not articles about the genre itself.



The screenshot shows the 'Literature Resource Center' website interface. The main navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'Title Search', 'Keyword Search', 'Authors by Type', 'Advanced Search', 'Literary-Historical Timeline', 'Authors on the Highway', 'Encyclopedia of Literature', and 'Gale Literary Index'. The 'Authors by Type' section is active, displaying a search form with the following fields:

- Author Name: Frost
- Start of last name: [dropdown]
- Gender: Any
- Year of Birth: is [dropdown] [input] A.D. [dropdown]
- Year of Death: is [dropdown] [input] A.D. [dropdown]
- Author Ethnicity: *None selected* (dropdown menu with options: African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, Native American)
- Author Nationality: Algerian, American, Antiguan, Argentine, Australian (dropdown menu)
- Genre: Adaptations, Adventure fiction, Agitprop, Allegories, Almanacs (dropdown menu)
- Theme: Abandonment, Absolute (philosophy), Absurdity, Academia, Addiction (dropdown menu)
- Literary Movement or Time Period: Abbaye group, Acmeism, Aesthetic movement, Afro-Cubanism, Age of Chaucer (dropdown menu)

Additional Search Tips

- To find criticism, click on the **Advanced Search**, enter your author's name and/ or the title of the work, then go to document type and click on *Critical Essay*.
- To narrow your search, try adding more terms. For example, if you are searching for information about *Shakespeare*, try this (in the **Advanced Search**) :

Author Name: shakespeare
Title: hamlet
Keyword: madness

For more help, contact the Mullen Library Reference (x5070) or try the Instant Messaging (IM) Reference Service at <http://libraries.cua.edu/about/IM.html>.

