

Library Instruction: English ProSeminar 41500

Identify a topic.

Elizabeth Bishop and the sestina
Lycidas and elegiac traditions
T.S. Eliot's The Wasteland
Philip Larkin

Find an overview of the topic

Look in a subject specific reference source such as **Critical Survey of Poetry** [Ref PN1021.C7 2002] or **The Oxford Companion to English Literature** [Ref PR 19.O94 2000] or **Thematic Guide to American Poetry** [Ref PS303.B87 2002]

Refine and, if necessary, narrow your topic and begin to form a thesis:

- *Keats' "Grecian Urn" seeks human perfection.*
- *How do theological readings of Elizabeth Bishop's "A Miracle for Breakfast," enrich our understanding of the poem?*
- *Depression and the poetry of Philip Larkin*

Search the STL Catalog for books on your topic.

Choose **subject begins with** or **subject words** if you are fairly certain your topic is a Library of Congress subject heading:

- *Eliot, T.S. (Thomas Stearns), 1885-1965 —Wasteland*
- *Bishop, Elizabeth—criticism and interpretation*
- *Poststructuralism*
- *Novel - history*

OR Choose **word(s) anywhere** if you are uncertain about the subject heading:

- *Shakespeare sonnet?*
- *Philip Larkin criticism*
- *Sestina?*
- *Elizabeth Bishop criticism*

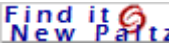
Use **Advanced search** feature to combine search terms or search specific collections or format:

Poetry (to capture singular and plural) and select **reference collection**

PMLA and change format to **journals**

□ For journal articles and other critical information, consult the **Databases** on the STL web page at <http://lib.newpaltz.edu/>

- **Expanded Academic (InfoTrac):** multi-disciplinary source for locating journal articles, some full-text (may limit search to "peer-reviewed" journals)
- **Academic Search Premier:** aggregate database with full text (Limit to "peer-reviewed" journals if desired.)
- **Gale Literature Resource Center:** full-text criticism from reference sources and journals of main-stream authors and works
- **JSTOR:** great resource for full text of archived articles from scholarly journals. (Use **expert search** and select a collection or collections when using this database). Remember that there is a three to five year embargo on the most recent titles.
- **New York Times Historical (Proquest):** full text from 1851 - 2001
- **OED online:** Oxford English Dictionary
- **ProQuest Direct:** aggregate database with some full text (Limit to "scholarly" journals.)
- **Twayne Author Series:** online version of the print series of books
- **MLA:** Citations and abstracts of journal articles in the fields of literature, language, linguistics and folklore published by the Modern Language Association.
- **Wilson Select Plus** (full text of Reader's Guide, Humanities Index, etc.)
- **WorldCat:** materials in other libraries

See  Find it at New Paltz SFX/Serials Solutions for access to full text of your journal article.

If your article is not available, either in print, in microform or online, you may request it via Interlibrary Loan (ILLIAD).

□ Some good source materials:

- *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms* [Ref PN 44.5 .M86 1998]
- *A Companion to Victorian Poetry* [Ref PR591.C66 2002]
- *Critical Survey of Poetry*, 2nd rev. ed. [Ref PN1021.C7 2003] 8 v.
- *Critical Survey of Short Fiction* [Ref PN3321 .C7 2001] 7 v.
- *Encyclopedia of the Novel* [Ref PN41.E487 1998] 2 v.
- *A Glossary of Contemporary Literary Theory* [Ref PN44.5.H37 2000]
- *Guide to British Poetry Explication* [Ref Desk PR311.M37 1991] 3v.
- *Guide to American Poetry Explication* [Ref Desk PS201 .G84] 2v.
- *A Reference Guide to Short Fiction* [Ref PN3373.R36 1994]
- *Short Story Writers* [Ref PN3373.S398 1998] 3 v.

□ Remember to evaluate Internet sites according to: authority, objectivity, currency, coverage.