

Urban Studies Research Methods: Literature

Finding Primary Texts (fiction, poetry, drama, etc.)

LION: Literature Online

PU Library > Articles & Databases > English Language & Literature > LION

Full text of more than 350,000 works of English and American literature and poetry, fiction, drama, from the seventeenth century to the present, as well as works of literary theory from Plato to the present.

Tip: for the broadest search across genres, type in “city” or “San Francisco,” e.g.

Literary Reference Center

PU Library > Articles & Databases > English Language & Literature > Literary Reference Center

Broad spectrum of reference information. Full-text database that combines information from over 1,000 books and monographs, major literary encyclopedias and reference works, hundreds of literary journals, and unique sources not available anywhere else. Contains detailed information on the most studied authors and their works.

Tip: use the search field “literary locale” to find fiction set in a specific city

PU Main Catalog

PU Library > Main Catalog

Tip: try “San Francisco fiction” (e.g.), then drill down to more specific Subject headings for more examples of stories set in that location

Finding Secondary Texts (literary criticism, theory, etc.)

MLA International Bibliography

PU Library > Articles & Databases > English Language & Literature > MLA International Bibliography

Provides citations to articles, books, book chapters, and dissertations on all aspects of modern literature, language, and linguistics.

Tip: use the Subject fields in individual entries to collate works on the same topic

PU Main Catalog

PU Library > Main Catalog

Tip: search for “city and town life in literature” under Subject (not keyword)

Trends in Language Usage

Google Books Ngram Viewer

<http://books.google.com/ngrams>

Graphically displays how search phrases have occurred in a corpus of books over time

Tip: use the “English fiction” corpus