ENCYCLPEDIAS

In addition to providing useful summary and survey information, encyclopedias often provide a list of recommended readings on particular topics.


This large single-volume encyclopedia covers theorists, movements, terms and critics. Each entry is individually authored and includes a bibliography.


Divided into the three sections indicated by its title, this large single-volume encyclopedia consists of individually authored entries.


71 entries are discussed using short essay-length format. Contrary to its title, this is more of a single-volume encyclopedia than a dictionary. Each entry contains a bibliography.


A two-volume work that includes detailed entries on the world’s novels and novelists, as well as issues and ideas of literature.


Signed articles with bibliographies and cross-references.

Illustration in title box: from Pablo Picasso, Woman in an Armchair (1913), collection of Mrs. Victor W. Gantz, New York.
GLOSSARIES AND DICTIONARIES

Glossaries and dictionaries are used to define terms and concepts. Glossaries generally provide a much more detailed explanation of the term in question.

[Victoria, E. J. Pratt Library – PN 44.5 .H37 2000]
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – PN 44.5 .H37 1998]

In its “Using the Glossary” section, this source lists the major approaches for literary criticism and provides a list of terms associated with each approach as well as an annotated bibliography of subject specific reference texts for each perspective.


Short-essay format with a focus on 'contemporary' as opposed to 'modern' criticism.

[Robarts 4th Floor Reference Area – PN 41 .B26 2001]
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – PN 41 .C6 7 1990]

Contains a succinct explanation for 1,000 terms.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – PN 172 .D813 1991]

Translated from the French, contains interesting definitions of terms from Linguistics, Rhetoric, and Philology.

[Victoria, E. J. Pratt Library – PN 81 .C6 1995]
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – PN 81 .C84 1990]

High quality, individually written, essay-length entries for 22 core terms in literary study.

[Robarts Library – PE 1445 .A2L3 1991]
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – PE 1445 .A2L3 1968]

Clear and well illustrated coverage of quite technical terms.
[Victoria, E. J. Pratt Library – PN 41 .A184 1999]
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – PN 41 .A184 1993]

A scholarly work that is, nonetheless, accessible to those less well versed in the field.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – PN 41 .C83 1991]

Contains more terms than Abrams work but each entry is less detailed.

[Robarts 4th Floor Reference Area – PN 98 .S6O77 1991]

Includes entries pertaining to Anglo-American literary theory as well as Continental.

SOURCES FOR SPECIFIC SCHOOLS AND APPROACHES TO LITERARY THEORY

THE BAKHTIN GROUP

[Robarts Library – PN 3331 .B2513]

Includes an 11 page glossary of terms coined, or commonly used, by Bakhtin.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PG 2947 .B3T613 1984]

An excellent introduction to Bakhtin's work.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PG 2947 .B3L63 1990]

Demonstrates how Bakhtin's ideas can be used by the literary critic.

CULTURAL STUDIES

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PE 1580 .W58]

Williams, himself one of the most important figures in Cultural Studies, examines the origins and historical changes in key terms in the vocabulary of culture and society.
[Trinity Library – CB 430 .S78 1997]

A collection of key texts in Cultural Studies. Includes editorial commentary and suggestions for further reading.

[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – PN 81 .C83 1992]

Another collection of seminal works.

**DECONSTRUCTION**

[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – PN 98 .D43N6]

A good introduction to this school.

[Victoria, E. J. Pratt Library – PN 94 .F45 1985]

[St. Michael’s 3rd Floor – B 2430 .D484D478 1989]

This philosophical account includes a bibliography of works by and about Derrida.

**FEMINISM**

[Robarts Library – HQ 1190 .A53 2000]

Includes a chronology of opinion, biographical sketches of important figures, statistics, techniques, organizations, glossary, index, and a select bibliography.

[Robarts Library – HQ 1115 .H86 1995]  
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – HQ 1115 .H86 1990]

[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – PN 98 .W64F44 1996]

An essential collection of works.
Gender Inn
[Available online: http://www.uni-koeln.de/phil-fak/englisch/datenbank/e_index.htm]

Gender Inn is a searchable database providing access to over 7,500 records pertaining to feminist theory, feminist literary criticism and gender studies focusing on English and American literature.

LINGUISTICS AND STYLISTICS

[Robarts 4th Floor Reference Area – P 301.W35 2001]
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – P 301 .W35 1990]

Contains many specialist terms from Linguistics and Stylistics.

[Robarts 4th Floor Reference Area – P 152 .T7 1993]

[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – P 301 .S879 1996X]

A collection of classic writings in the field.

MARXISM

[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – PN 98 .C6C66 1992]

Includes a chronology of opinion, biographical sketches of important figures, statistics, techniques, organizations, glossary, index, and a select bibliography.

[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – PN 98 .C6M28 1996]

A collection of editorial columns and political cartoons concerning abortion, with subject and author access.

[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – PN 98 .C6G6 1990]

A source book of sociological, philosophical, religious, and legal aspects of the issue.
MEDIA STUDIES

[Robarts 4th Floor Reference Area – P 87.5 .W3 2000]
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – P 87.5 .W3 1997]

[Robarts 4th Floor Reference Area – HM 258 .M273 2000]
[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – HM 258 .M185 1996]

An excellent introduction to the subject.

[Robarts Library – P 91.3 .M386 1999]

MODERNISM AND POSTMODERNISM

[Victoria, E. J. Pratt Library – PN 56 .M54M6 1991]

A good starting point for includes a chronology of opinion, biographical sketches of important figures, statistics, techniques, organizations, glossary, index, and a select bibliography.

[Trinity Library – PR 478 .P67W38 1993]

Examines some of the key ideas of these schools and their implications for textual analysis.

NARRATOLOGY

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – P 302.7 .P75 1989]

Short, yet informative entries. Detailed and comprehensive.

[Robarts Library – P 302.7 .T66 2001]
[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – P 302.7 .T66 1988]

A good introductory text.
NEW HISTORICISM AND CULTURAL MATERIALISM


Includes good introductory material on the subject and its many facets.


PRAGMATICS


PHENOMENOLOGY

Wolfgang Iser is probably the best known contemporary literary critic who has been strongly influenced by phenomenology. His books are recommended to those wishing to see phenomenological ideas put into literary critical practice.


The work is particularly valuable for its clarification of concepts and terms that frequently emerge in the phenomenology of literature. Natanson, a prominent champion of phenomenology, draws upon this method's unique power to show how fiction can highlight aspects of experience that are normally left unexamined.

POSTCOLONIALISM


Includes many essays and extracts.
[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – PR9080 .P57 1995]

Includes more essays and extracts than the title listed above but some of these are abridged.

RUSSIAN FORMALISM AND THE PRAGUE SCHOOL

[Robarts Library – PG3026 .F6F6]

[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – PN98 .F6M413 1991]

A contemporary critique of Russian Formalism.

SEMIOTICS

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – P 87.5 .D36 2000]

This compact volume includes brief entries for the major terms in semiotics.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – P 99 .C569 1993]

Useful for ready reference but the entries are quite short.

STRUCTURALISM AND POSTSTRUCTURALISM

[Available online for UofT use only: www.library.utoronto.ca/]
[St. Michael’s 3rd Floor – B 841.4 .H37 1987]

Contains useful discussions about many of the central terms in both schools.

[St. Michael’s 3rd Floor – B 841.4 .L3]
**FINDING JOURNAL ARTICLES**

To find articles in scholarly journals, magazines, newspapers, anthologies, collections and conference proceedings, the best place to go is an article database. To find articles related to your subject area, go to www.library.utoronto.ca/, click the **By Subjects A-Z** link, and scroll down to your subject area—i.e. *Literature*—and click GO. You’ll find a list of online databases containing relevant articles, as well as other online resources such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, and research guides.

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<th><strong>MLA International Bibliography (Modern Language Association)</strong></th>
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<td>This is the most significant source for current articles on this topic. Covering criticism related to literature, linguistics, and folklore from 1921 to the present, the <em>MLA</em> contains more than 1-million citations to journal articles, series, books, working papers and conference proceedings.</td>
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<th><strong>Philosopher's Index.</strong></th>
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<td>In addition to being a major source for Literary and Cultural Theory and Criticism, <em>Philosopher's Index</em> is the primary source for information in the areas of aesthetics, epistemology, ethics, logic, and metaphysics. It is also a rich source of material on the philosophy of various disciplines, such as education, history, law, religion, and science.</td>
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<th><strong>Literature Online</strong></th>
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<td>This searchable online library contains more than 330,000 works of English and American poetry and drama, as well as prose, biographies, bibliographies, and criticism.</td>
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INTERNET RESOURCES

LitLinks
[https://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/~mactavis/litlinks/]

Provides links to websites on critical theorists, poets, dramaturges, novelists, and literary periods.

Voice of the Shuttle
[http://vos.ucsb.edu]

A source of links to all things about literary theory including general resources, listservs, conferences, journals.

Introduction to Modern Literary Theory
[http://www.kristisiegel.com/theory.htm]

Quick definitions of major theories with bibliographies for further research compiled by an English professor at Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, WI.

Introductory Guide to Literary Theory
[http://www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/english/theory]

An excellent introductory site for the uninitiated.

This research guide is maintained by Richard Carter (richard.carter@utoronto.ca). It was last updated September 2019. The most recent version can be found online: http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/kellyliterarytheory