

**A SELECTIVE LIST OF BEST FREE INTERNET SITES
ON
AMERICAN and ENGLISH LITERATURE**

AMERICAN AND ENGLISH LITERATURE: THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE: <http://www.bartleby.com/cambridge/>

Considered the most important work of literary history and criticism ever published, the Cambridge History contains over 11,000 pages, with essay topics ranging from poetry, fiction, drama and essays to history, theology and political writing. The set encompasses a wide selection of writing, on even non-English works.

MEGA SITE ON AMERICAN LITERATURE:

<http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/american.html>

An excellent site to begin research: a FIVE STAR site. Highly recommended!

AMERICAN LITERATURE FROM THE OPEN DIRECTORY PROJECT:

http://www.dmoz.org/Arts/Literature/World_Literature/American/

A thorough directory of genres, topics, movements, and ideas in American Literature.

AMERICAN AND BRITISH LITERATURE INTERNET SITES:

<http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/grd/resguides/english/>

AMERICAN LITERATURE: TOP 20 SITES FOR RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS:

http://www.top20directory.com/Top/Arts/Literature/World_Literature/American

AMERICAN AUTHORS ON THE WEB:

<http://www.lang.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/AmeLit.html#Authors>

Meticulous listing of web pages where one can find information about American Authors.

See also **GENERAL RESOURCES ON AMERICAN LITERATURE** at:

<http://www.lang.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/AmeLit-G.html>

AMERICAN WRITERS: Find information on American Writers and their Works and related videos; many of these videos and related lesson plans you can see for free.

<http://www.americanwriters.org/>

50 QUINTESENTIALLY AMERICAN NOVELS:

<http://www.accreditedonlinecolleges.com/blog/2011/50-quintessentially-american-novels/>

25 BEST LITERARY CRITICISM BLOGS:

<http://www.mastersdegree.net/blog/2011/25-best-literary-criticism-blogs/>

MIT LITERATURE GUIDE:

<http://libraries.mit.edu/guides/subjects/literature/>

LITERARY CRITICISM ONLINE (INTERNET PUBLIC LIBRARY):

<http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/>

LITERARY AUTHOR INDEX: <http://www.library.utoronto.ca/utel/indexauthors.html>

MAJOR WORKS OF LITERATURE ONLINE:

<http://www.library.utoronto.ca/utel/works.html>

AMERICAN LITERATURE WEB SITE: <http://www.wsu.edu/~campbelld/amlit/>

AMERICAN AUTHORS LITERARY CRITICISM OF:

<http://www.wsu.edu/~campbelld/amlit/aufram.html>

LITERARY MOVEMENTS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE:

<http://www.wsu.edu/~campbelld/amlit/litfram.html>

OUTLINE OF AMERICAN LITERATURE: (FREE)

<http://www.america.gov/publications/books.html#amlit>

USA LITERATURE IN BRIEF: (FREE BOOKLET)

http://www.america.gov/publications/books.html#lit_brief

FREE, ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE USA

http://info-pedia.americancorners.or.kr/ENG/index_eng.html

ARTS AND LITERATURE COLLECTIONS FROM THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY'S DIGITIZED GALLERY: ALL IN FULL TEXT: UNDERSTAND THE BACKGROUND OF AMERICAN AND BRITISH LITERATURE BY LOOKING THROUGH THESE RESOURCES

<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/explore/dgexplore.cfm?topic=arts&x=9&y=6>

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ON LINE CATALOG: <http://catalog.loc.gov/>

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: POETRY RESOURCES

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/lcpoetry/>

POETRY ONLINE RESOURCES FROM ALCOVE 9 (LIBRARY OF CONGRESS):

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/alcove9/literature/poetry.html>

Includes how to find literary criticism of individual poems, the American Verse Project, an Electronic Poetry Center and an Online Journal for Modern American Poetry, including syllabi from various universities on how they teach poetry in the classroom. A value packed site!

100 GREAT WEB SITES FOR POETRY LOVERS:

<http://www.onlinecolleges.net/2009/10/05/100-great-web-sites-for-poetry-lovers/>

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH <http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/41>

Find information on Poets and Poetry

UNITED STATES POET LAUREATES:

United States Poets Laureate: A Guide to Online Resources Locate online resources related to U.S. poets laureate. Completed guides link to Library of Congress Web pages that include information on the poet laureate's life and work, as well as to external Web sites that feature biographical information, interviews, poems, audio, video, and other materials that highlight the activities of each poet. <http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/poetslaureate/>

POETRY EXPLICATIONS

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/poetry-explication.html>

Documents about the poetry explication, which is "a relatively short analysis which describes the possible meanings and relationships of the words, images, and other small units that make up a poem. ... This handout reviews some of the important techniques of approaching and writing a poetry explication, and includes parts of two sample explications." From the Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

POETRY: LESSON PLANS: This collection of lesson plans covers a wide variety of topics in poetry, such as epic poems, haiku, sonnets, modernist poetry, limericks and nonsense poems, writing poetry, metaphor and simile, line breaks in poems, and specific poets and works. A selection of annotated poetry links is available by navigating to the "Websites" tab. From EDSITEMent, a website of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

http://edsitement.neh.gov/tab_lesson.asp?subjectArea=4&subcategory=45

MORE TIPS FOR TEACHING POETRY, INCLUDING SAMPLE LESSON PLANS:

<http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/6>

WRITING ABOUT POETRY: Tips for writing about poetry, which "can be one of the most demanding tasks that many students face in a literature class." Topics include reasons for writing about poetry, having a specific argument about the poems, what to write about (such as figures of speech and cultural context), and standard conventions for writing about poetry. From the Writing Lab and The OWL (Online Writing Lab) at Purdue, both of Purdue University.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/615/01/>

RHYTHMS IN AMERICAN POETRY: A TEACHERS GUIDE FROM LEARNER.ORG:

<http://www.learner.org/amerpass/unit10/pdf/unit10ig.pdf> Another 5 Star Resource
FREE VIDEO, NEED TO REGISTER TO ACCESS THIS VIDEO, BUT THE VIDEO IS FREE AND REGISTRATION TAKES JUST MINUTES.

BARTLEBY VERSE, AMERICAN AND ENGLISH POETRY FROM 1250 to 1920

<http://www.bartleby.com/verse/>

POET'S CORNER: over 7300 full text works by 800 poets.

<http://www.theotherpages.org/poems/>

BRITISH WOMEN ROMANTIC POETS, 1789-1832: Full Text Resources and Biographies.

An electronic collection of texts from the University of California, Davis: Searchable, and browsable by author. <http://digital.lib.ucdavis.edu/projects/bwrp/>

VICTORIAN WOMEN WRITER'S PROJECT: FULL TEXT WORKS, ALL FREE:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~letrs/vwwp/>

The Modern English Collection: Free, Full Text Works : This collection from the University of Virginia E Text Project contains fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, letters, newspapers, manuscripts and illustrations from 1500 to the present, arranged for browsing by author's last name or by category of interest. <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/modeng/>

Online Literature Library: Free Full Text Books, collections by author:

<http://www.literature.org/authors/>

Another valuable collection of full text literary resources is from the University of Texas at Austin: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/books/etext.html> Includes World Literature and Classics Texts as well.



LitCharts is a service that provides condensed outlines and summaries of classic literature. The outlines and summaries are far shorter than those you would find in Spark notes or Cliff notes. Most of the outlines and summaries are ten pages, give or take a page or two. What I like about **LitCharts** is that they color code the themes addressed and symbolism within a particular work. The color coding makes it easy to quickly pick out the themes and symbols in each chapter of a book. **LitCharts** can be viewed online, downloaded as PDFs, or accessed through iPhone apps.

Applications for Education

LitCharts provides nice outlines and summaries but doesn't provide so much information that a student can avoid actually reading the books you've assigned to them. In this way LitCharts could be useful study aids for students.

FREE BOOKS AND SCHOLARLY BOOKS OF LITERARY CRITICISM:

AMERICAN STUDIES INFORMATION COMMUNITY: University of Virginia Library
<http://infocomm.lib.virginia.edu/amst/etexts.html>

and: <http://infocomm.lib.virginia.edu/amst/texts.html>

Digital Resources including full text of around 300 classical works and full image collections plus a directory of selected on line resources

E-TEXTS FROM the UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA: <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/ebooks/>

STUDY GUIDES:

<http://www.shmoop.com/literature/study-guides/>

Covers all areas of Literature, in addition to American Literature: covers symbolism, offers a plot summary and a basic study guide.

25 BEST LITERARY CRITICISM BLOGS: <http://www.mastersdegree.net/blog/2011/25-best-literary-criticism-blogs/>

DMOZ: http://www.dmoz.org/Arts/Literature/World_Literature/American/

DMOZ Literature in General is at: <http://www.dmoz.org/Arts/Literature/>

Check out, as one example, all the scholarly information available on Phillis Wheatley:

http://www.dmoz.org/Arts/Literature/World_Literature/American/Early/Wheatley,_Phillis/

SPARKNOTES.COM. Literature study guides. Indexes a long list of classics including novels, plays, etc. by Title and by Author. Study guides written by over 100 students and recent graduates from Harvard. <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/>

E-BOOKS: <http://www.bibliomania.com>

Includes 2000 Classic Texts and Study Guides to the most read Books

SCHOLARY BOOKS FREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS

<http://content.cdlib.org/escholarship/>

The eScholarship Editions collection includes almost 2000 free books from academic presses on a range of topics, including art, science, history, music, religion, and fiction. Extraordinary resource that lets you search, read, print full-texts of many high-quality scholarly books.

Subject Index available at: http://www.escholarship.org/editions/index_subjects.html

DIGITAL BOOK INDEX: <http://www.digitalbookindex.com/about.htm>

The Digital Book Index a database of over 80,000 fiction and nonfiction e-books from over 1,800 publishers. Many categories of books are listed, including reference, history, children's, and African American studies. One needs to register to use the service, but registration is absolutely free and takes just seconds.

ONLINE BOOKS: <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/lists.html>

The Online Books Page is a searchable and browseable collection of over 25,000 English language works in various formats that are all free for personal, noncommercial use. One can search by Author and Title

PROJECT GUTENBERG: 27,000 FREE EBOOKS. <http://www.gutenberg.org/>

These books can be downloaded for free

NEW DIGITIZED E-BOOK PROJECT: SCANNING OF THE ENTIRE BOOK

<http://demo.openlibrary.org>

Click on the Full Text option and in the search box provided, type SISTER CARRIE to read the entire scanned book.

NEW DIGITIZED RESEARCH PROJECTS:

These projects allow anyone anywhere with Internet access to read manuscripts or any other digitized project for free.

The most important of these new resources is the **AMERICAN MEMORY PROJECT** from the **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**: a massive project digitizing works of literature, manuscripts, photographs, music, videos, and other cultural treasures, from baseball cards to movies.

DIGITIZED RESOURCES FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS:

LOC: AMERICAN MEMORY: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse>

A listing of excellent resources for American Studies, by topic and by historical periods in various fields all digitized

Go to BROWSE – then go to LITERATURE

Look at ZORA NEALE HURSTON PLAYS THAT HAVE BEEN DIGITIZED AND AVAILABLE FREE OVER THE INTERNET:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/znhtml/znhome.html>

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS EXPERIENCE: NEW INTERACTIVE, DIGITIZED EXHIBITS OF THE TREASURES OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS:

<http://www.loc.gov/experience/>

See the Gutenberg Bible and actually zoom in and read every page! This and other interactive exhibits are available absolutely free in this LOC website premiering April 12, 2008.

WRIGHT'S AMERICAN FICTION: <http://www.lettrs.indiana.edu/web/w/wright2/>

This is a collection of 19th century American fiction, as listed in Lyle Wright's bibliography *American Fiction, 1851-1875*. There are currently 2,887 volumes included (1,763 unedited, 1,124 fully edited and encoded) by 1,456 authors. All resources are full text format.

MAKING OF AMERICA: <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moa/>

Making of America (MOA) is a **free digital library of primary sources in American social history** primarily from the antebellum period through reconstruction.

The collection is particularly strong in the subject areas of education, psychology, American history, sociology, religion, and science and technology. and the history of New York City

The book collection currently contains approximately **10,000 books with 19th century imprints.**

For more details about the project, see About MoA. (<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagr/about.html>)

SUBJECT BROWSING OF THE MAKING OF AMERICA IS AVAILABLE VIA THIS WEB SITE:
<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?page=browse;cc=moa;c=moa;key=subject>

DOCUMENTING THE AMERICAN SOUTH: SLAVE NARRATIVES, PLANTATION LIFE, SOUTHERN ECONOMY, <http://docsouth.unc.edu/>
PRIMARY RESOURCES FOR THE AMERICAN SOUTH

Documenting the American South (DocSouth) is a digital publishing initiative that provides Internet access to texts, images, and audio files related to southern history, literature, and culture. Currently DocSouth includes ten thematic collections of books, diaries, posters, artifacts, letters, oral history interviews, and songs. The **University Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** sponsors *Documenting the American South*, and the texts and materials come primarily from its southern holdings. The UNC University Library is committed to the long-term availability of these collections and their online records." (from the Preface to the Website.)

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS FROM the NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY:

<http://www.nypl.org/digital/>

HARVARD UNIVERSITY DASH PROJECT:

<http://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/1/browse?type=department>

New Full text research by Professors and Students from Harvard University in all fields of Literature

OPEN COURSEWARE: DISTANCE EDUCATION:

MIT'S OPEN COURSE SOFTWARE: FREE FULL ACCESS TO ONLINE COURSES AT MIT, THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. <http://ocw.mit.edu>

Includes links to Lecture Notes from Professors, Student Projects, Syllabus of each Course, Reading Assignments and tests. An amazing full-text resource!

MIT's LITERATURE: COURSES WITH SPECIALIZED RESOURCES:

<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Literature/index.htm>

YALE UNIVERSITY: <http://open.yale.edu/courses>

Many courses available on English Literature and Poetry.

OTHER DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES worldwide for free at many other Universities may be found at: <http://ocwconsortium.org>, then **CLICK ON THE TAB LABELLED MEMBERS**.

THESES AND DISSERTATION ACCESS IN FULL TEXT FORMAT FOR RESEARCHERS : ALL FREE!

Library of Congress Theses and Dissertations Resources

The Library of Congress has compiled an annotated list of theses and dissertations databases from around the world. Coverage includes the **Theses Canada Portal**, where you can search for theses and dissertations in the National Library of Canada.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/alcove9/education/theses.html>

Digitized Research Studies, Theses and Specialized Studies:

DRUM: The Digital Repository of Maryland

<http://www.lib.umd.edu/drum>

Includes the free Full text online of theses and dissertations at the University of Maryland.

FULL TEXT ACCESS TO THE THESES AND DISSERTATIONS DONE AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY [MIT]

<http://dspace.mit.edu> Access to over 22,000 theses and dissertations, free and online..

THE eCOMMONS AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY has select theses and dissertations available (free and full text) available to the world: <http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/theses.html>

HARVARD UNIVERSITY DASH PROJECT:

<http://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/1/browse?type=department>

New Full text research by Professors and Students from Harvard University in all fields of Literature

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN: FREE ACCESS TO THESES, DISSERTATIONS AND SPECIALIZED RESEARCH STUDIES: <http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/handle/2027.42/78364>

BEST SEARCH TOOLS

ACADEMIC AND SCHOLAR SEARCH ENGINES and Sources

<http://whitepapers.virtualprivatelibrary.net/Scholar.pdf>

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: ALCOVE 9: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/alcove9/>

An Annotated List of Reference Websites

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS VIRTUAL REFERENCE SHELF:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/virtualref.html>

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ALCOVE 9: REFERENCE WORKS ONLINE:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/alcove9/>

ALCOVE 9: See especially Literature in English:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/alcove9/literature/literature.html>

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY<http://www.nypl.org/links/>

The best of the web in Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Resources in various themes, digital collections, research libraries with links to search engines

MARVELOUS RESEARCH GUIDES AT NYPL:<http://www.nypl.org/research/sibl/>**VOICE OF THE SHUTTLE:** <http://vos.ucsb.edu/>**A FIVE STAR RESOURCE!**

One of the very best search engines for Humanities and Literature researchers and scholars.

MASTERKEY <http://masterkey.indexdata.com/>

MasterKey is a hosted service developed and maintained by Index Data.

The MasterKey hosted metasearch service is now, and will continue to be, freely usable for searching selected open content online resources and library catalogs. Commercial resources and additional catalogs can be added to the service using the fee-based version of MasterKey.

An amazing resource, as an example, type "AMERICAN LITERATURE" in the search engine and look at the results! **Another Hint:** Try Langston Hughes in this Search Engine

The Paris Review: <http://www.theparisreview.com/>

The Paris Review has been interviewing significant writers in-depth since 1953. This site indexes all of the interviews, and reproduces some in their entirety (e.g. Aldous Huxley, Doris Lessing, Allen Ginsberg).

FREE AND VALUABLE LESSON PLANS:**Annenberg Offers Free Video-based Lesson Plans**

Annenberg Media provides lesson plans that

model using video as a part of the lesson rather than using video as the lesson. Lesson plans are categorized by content and grade level. Most of the lesson plans include free online videos. To find lessons that include free online videos look for a small "VOD" symbol attached near the title of each lesson plan. Clicking the VOD symbol will launch a video player in a new window.

Applications for Education

Annenberg Media's free media-based lesson plans provide teachers with lesson plans using video as a part of a lesson plan for a wide variety of topics and grade levels.

CURRIKI: Curriculum Guides and Lesson plans for hundreds of different topics: a great resource for educators and students and teachers! Funded in part by the US Department of Education: <http://www.curriki.org/xwiki/bin/view/Main/WebHome>

EDSITEment: <http://edsitement.neh.gov/>

The Best of the Humanities on the Web from the National Endowment of the Humanities in partnership with the National Trust for the Humanities, and the MCI Foundation. This educational partnership brings online humanities resources from some of the world's great museums, libraries, cultural institutions, and universities directly to your classroom.

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS (from the U.S. CONSULATE, KRAKOW, Poland):
<http://krakow.usconsulate.gov/studyus/resources-for-teachers.html>

FREE VIDEOS: ANNENBERG FOUNDATION: FREE EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS ON DEMAND: <http://www.learner.org/channel/workshops/tml/workshop1/index.html>

An excellent site for Teaching Multi cultural literature; Includes videos, workshops, teaching strategies resources and students' work. See Frank McCourt for example discuss *Angela's Ashes*. See also www.learner.org for a range of videos on many different subjects, many of which have embedded lesson plans.

MERLOT: Multi Media Educational Resources for Learning and Online Teaching.

<http://www.merlot.org/Home.po>

Resources submitted by professional educators from a variety of institutions. Look up the what's new section for the latest educational resources: <http://www.merlot.org/home/WhatsNew.po>

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAMS RESOURCES

STUDENT CORNER: BRIEF OUTLINES OF AMERICAN LITERATURE:

<http://www.america.gov/publications/student-corner.html>

Contains electronic journals, and outlines of American Literature and American History.

E-JOURNALS AND DATABASES:

ELECTRONIC JOURNALS AND OTHER WEB BASED RESOURCES

CATEGORIZED BY SUBJECT AREA: <http://ejw.i8.com/>

ELECTRONIC E-JOURNALS on LITERATURE: <http://ejw.i8.com/lite-j.htm>

OPEN DIRECTORY PROJECT: <http://www.dmoz.org>

OPEN HUMANITIES PRESS: <http://www.openhumanitiespress.org/cosmos-and-history.html>

Open Humanities Press open access journals include:

- [Cosmos and History](#)
- [Culture Machine](#)
- [Fast Capitalism](#)
- [Fibreculture](#)
- [Film-Philosophy](#)
- [Filosofski vestnik](#)
- [Image and Narrative](#)
- [International Journal of Žižek Studies](#)
- [Parrhesia](#)
- [Postcolonial Text](#)
- [Vectors](#)

Also see the Home page of the OPEN HUMANITIES PRESS at
<http://www.openhumanitiespress.org> for their OPEN BOOK SERIES

FREE SCHOLARLY ARTICLES FROM THE DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS: <http://www.doaj.org> A valuable free database to find full free-text articles. Covers over 6200 journals in all disciplines and that number is growing yearly!

Electronic Journals from America.gov:
<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html>

SEE ALSO THE CAIRO UNIV TOOLS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS for other related resources, including Free Online Books and Free Videos:
<http://tinyurl.com/6dfaxn>

See Also the brand new DASH PROJECT at HARVARD UNIVERSITY:
<http://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/1/browse?type=department>
Offers New Full text research by Professors and Students from Harvard University in all fields of Literature: a new and amazing resource!

The English and American Literature Departmental Research at Harvard may be found here: scholarly research from Harvard Faculty and Staff, absolutely free to anyone.
<http://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/1/browse?value=English+and+American+Literature+and+Language&type=department>

OTHER RESOURCES AT: <http://tinyurl.com/6dfaxn>

Last updated: APRIL 13, 2011

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I once was the IRO at CAIRO, and this was the happiest time of my life!