

Introduction to using Literature Online (LION)

What is LION?

LION is an online electronic 'library' of **English and American literature**, made up of the primary texts themselves and accompanying 'secondary' or **critical material**.

Getting started

- You will need your open university Computer Username and password to log on, [access LION here](#).
- From the LION home page, click on one of the search options in orange text to see how you can search (by author, text, or criticism) or browse.
- You can use the Quick Search box in the top left-hand corner to search the whole database.
- The Information Centre has a demonstration of how to use LION: [Literature Online Demo](#)

Search authors

- You can type the author's name into the **Find Authors search box**, or click on the '**select from a list**' option to find works by and about a particular author. If using the 'select from a list' search box you need to **type the surname in first**, for example: **Heaney, Seamus**.
- You can **browse** a list of all authors in the database by clicking on the link to the **Author Index** at the top of the page. Within this list you can **browse by period, nationality, literary movement, ethnicity or gender**. For example, you could search for female authors from the Renaissance period. Again, you can enter requirements or select from a list.

Search texts

- You can use this option to search for works by **keyword, title or author**.
- For example, put **Hamlet** in the **Title box** and **Shakespeare** in the **Author box** and to find a copy of this play. Searching this way will also retrieve texts from Early English Books Online where available.
- You can choose to **limit your search** to poetry, drama or prose.
- You can search the **full text** of the entire LION database for instances of a particular word or phrase. If searching for a phrase, put it in brackets, for example, "**to be or not to be**".

Search criticism and reference

- This screen allows you to **cross-search** LION for full-text journal articles, bibliographic references from **ABELL** (Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature), **biographies, reference works and web sites**. For example, if looking for the article by David S Hogsette on "Coleridge as Victorian heirloom: nostalgic rhetoric in the early Victorian reviews of poetical works" which appeared in Studies in Romanticism, Spring 1998, just type the first few words of the title into the Keyword(s) search box and the article reference will appear on the screen.
- You can choose to **limit your search to Criticism, Reference or Web sites**.

Browsing

- Click on the **links** on the left-hand side of the screen to **browse** the complete contents of the database, the list of full text journals, the list of authors, or the 'Poets on Screen' collection of poets reading their own or other people's work.

Personalising your use of LION

- You can use the '**My Archive**' option to **store saved searches** and selected records between sessions, register for author email alerts, and **sign up to the mailing list** to receive the 'Literature Online' newsletter.
- To use this feature, you just need to **register** some brief details including a username and password - there is no charge.

Search tips

- Combine your search terms for more specific searches using special keywords, called Boolean operators: **AND, OR, NOT**. For example, you can list the works in LION produced during the eighteenth century which contain the words **romantic and love**.
- Search for variant spellings by using the * (**asterisk**) wildcard operator. For example, **librar*** finds **library, libraries, librarian**
- You can also use a ? (**question mark**) to replace any letter of a word regardless of position, for example, **gr?y** will find **grey** or **gray**, **hono?r** will find **honour** or **honor**.
- More complex searches can also be performed using the additional search boxes displayed when you click on the **Authors, Texts, and Criticism & Reference** options. For example, you can search work publication date, author gender, nationality, ethnicity, literary movement or period.

Viewing articles

- To view the full text of articles, where available, **click on the camera** (page image), **printed page** (full text) icon, or article title.
- Clicking on the **catalogue card** (full record) symbol allows you to see the full details of the article that you will need for compiling a bibliography.
- Other symbols you will see are **JSTOR full text** and **ABELL**. Clicking on JSTOR full text will allow you to see the full text (where available) of articles cited in the ABELL bibliography.

E-mailing results

- **Save the records** you are interested in by **clicking in the box** next to the relevant ones.
- Click on the link to your **'Marked list'** at the top of the screen.
- You can email, print or save results to **'My archive'**
- You can also **e-mail the full text** of journal articles retrieved through the **'Search Criticism & Reference'** screen. Simply by accessing the full text of any article and clicking on the 'E-mail full text' link you can forward a copy to a colleague or to your own e-mail account.

Printing and downloading

- You can **view the text** you wish to print on your screen. Large texts may take some time to download.
- To print from your screen, use the **Print** option on your web browser, or the print button in Adobe Acrobat if you are viewing a document in pdf format.

Copyright

- Texts can only be used for private study, teaching or research. For any other use you must contact Literature Online.

Other hints

- See [Resources for students](#) for more search tips and advice on how to cite texts from LION.
- If in doubt, refer to the **online Help** available by clicking on the link in the top right-hand corner of each screen.