Here are some general notes to remind you of or to introduce you to sources.

**Encyclopedias and Dictionaries:** [http://www.library.umass.edu/catalog/dic.html](http://www.library.umass.edu/catalog/dic.html)

**Oxford Reference Online** All the Oxford Guides to Everything (including the guide to literature). Search “Oxford Reference Online” in TITLE to connect.

**Databases:** [http://www.library.umass.edu/ → Databases](http://www.library.umass.edu/ → Databases)

1. **MLA Bibliography** this is the database of the Modern Language Association. It lists most of the secondary work in literature and modern language study. Essential.
2. **Book review Digest.** Read what a book is about before spending an hour looking for it.
3. **JSTOR** tons of highly respected journals, full-text, and on-line.
4. **Contemporary Literary Criticism**
5. **Early English Books** images of books 1475-1700, full text search.
6. **Essay and General Literature Index**
7. **Grove Dictionary of Art**
8. **Historical New York Times**
9. **Humanities Index**
10. **Infotrac** includes lit. crit
11. **NetLibrary** sign up free, access to hundreds of e-books

There are dozens of others. Take some time to browse.

**REFERENCE BOOKS**

All good libraries have general guides to topics and periods. Check pamphlet displays. UMass has set up subject pages (e.g., history, English, etc).

*Note that the Library of Congress call numbers (e.g. PA 203) apply to both reference books and stack books. Poetry books can be found in the PN section on the 12th floor, poetry reference can be found in the Ref PN section in the basement. Browse!*

**Guides to Reference Books**

Harnar, James L. *Literary research guide : a guide to reference sources for the study of literatures in English and related topics.* ref Z2011 .h34 1993 The best single stop for research in literature. (There may be some free copies in the Grad office.)

*Bibliographic Index: A Cumulative Bibliography of Bibliographies* 1988-present ref Z 1002 .b595

Sheehy, Eugene P. *Guide to Reference Books.* ref Z 1035.1 s43

**Literary Guides**

*Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* ref PN 1021 e5 [excellent resource]
*Literary Criticism in Antiquity*, 2 vols. ref PA 3015 .a8
*Oxford History of English Literature*, 12 vols., catalogued under author
*Masterplots* (official Cole’s Notes!) ref PN 44 .m35

**Guides to Periods**

Ask faculty for a list of the best books in your field (e.g. Romantics, 18th Century, Medieval, etc.), or check Harner.

**Guides to Research in Specific Fields**

Each field compiles an annual bibliography. These are reviewed in *The Years Work in English Studies* (YWES) ref Z 2001 .y4

Old English. *Old English Newsletter,* and *Anglo-Saxon England*

Renaissance. *Studies in Philology,* *Shakespeare Quarterly*

18th Century. *Philological Quarterly,* and see PR 1105 .e5 z99

Romantics. *ELH,* *Philological Quarterly,* and *English Language Notes*

Victorian. *Modern Philology* and DA 550

20th Century. *Twentieth-Century Literature* (Gale) and PR 1 s73

American. *American Literature* PS 1 .a6

**The Figura Paper**

There are dozens of suitable reference books. Two of the better ones for this area are:


Downloadable electronic books, reference books, journals, books, magazines, newsletters, abstracts, leaflets, pamphlets, directories, advertisements, newspapers, annuals and periodical publications. WikiMatrix. The Duff Book of World Records is a parody of the annually published reference book Guinness Book of World Records. Johnson Reference Books & Militaria boasts the largest online catalogue of German dress daggers, German swords, German bayonets, and other German militaria offered worldwide. We have over 2,100 items of original German Imperial and Third Reich edged weapons, parts and accouterments, as well as out-of-print and current militaria reference books. Our 50+ years of service has given us an unprecedented advantage in the German militaria market.