

## African American Literature

### Library Catalogs

Bowling Green Technical College Library: <http://opac.kctcs.edu> (Limit search to **Bowling Green TC**)

Bowling Green Public Library: <http://catalog.bgpl.org/>

Western Kentucky University Libraries TOPCAT: <http://topcat2000.wku.edu/>

**Materials can be borrowed from WKU Libraries and delivered to the BGTC library.**

**Submit the [BGTC/WKU Library Book Service Form](#) on the library's website to staff at the Help Desk.**

### Library of Congress (LC) Call Numbers

Look for the call numbers listed below on the library shelves to find print and audio-visual materials on the following subjects:

**History of the Americas: E**

**Language and Literature: P**

**PL Languages and literature of Africa**

**PN Literature (General)**

**PS American Literature**

Library of Congress Classification System is available at: <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsol/lcco/>

### Subject Headings

Use the subject headings listed below when searching a library catalog for materials:

- To search by an author:  
(last name, first name)  
Example: Walker, Alice
- African American women in literature
- African Americans in literature
- African Americans—literary collections
- American literature—African American authors
- Race in literature
- Racism in literature
- Slavery in literature

### Reference Resources

It is important to get an overview of a topic so you have a general understanding of the issue. Background information may include: the history of a subject, facts, statistics, key terms, and the names of significant people in the field. Sources for background information include: encyclopedias, dictionaries, almanacs and other materials shelved in the Reference Collection or available in the indexed online databases listed below.

The following items are located in the **Reference Collection** and are for in-library use only:

- Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African & African American Experience DT 14 A37 435 2005
- Notable African American Writers (3 vols.) PS 153 N5NM68 2005

### Multimedia (DVDs)

- Alice Walker: "Everyday Use" PR 3563 08749 E94 2004
- Bamboozled PN 1995.9 N4B34 2001
- Beloved PN 1997 B45 1999
- The Color Purple PS 3573 A425 C66 1997
- Daughters of the Dust E 185.6 D30 1999
- Eve's Bayou PN 1997 E890 1997
- Lackawanna Blues PN 1997.2 L32 2005
- Salvation PS 3515 U274 S3 2003
- Their Eyes Were Watching God PN 1997 T437 2005

## Databases (use these to find indexed, full-text journals and magazine articles)

### CREDO reference

<http://www.credoreference.com>

Features content from hundreds of popular reference books on a broad range of subjects. The following literature reference guides are available: Dictionary of Literary Symbols, Brewer's Curious Titles, Cambridge Guide to Literature in English, 3rd edition, Continuum Encyclopedia of American Literature, Continuum Encyclopedia of British Literature, Continuum Encyclopedia of Children's Literature, Dictionary of Shakespeare, Encyclopedia of American Poetry: The Twentieth Century, Holocaust Literature: An Encyclopedia of Writers and Their Work, The Bloomsbury Dictionary of English Literature, The Cambridge Guide to Children's Books in English, The Cambridge Guide to Women's Writing in English, The Chronology of American Literature, The Columbia Companion to the Twentieth-Century American Short Story. Provides citation information in **APA** and **MLA** styles.

### Gale

<http://find.galegroup.com/menu/commonmenu.do?userGroupName=kctcsbgtc>  
(Off Campus use <https://216.69.39.58/login> )

Databases: **Academic OneFile**, **Health Reference Center Academic**, **Expanded Academic ASAP**, **Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center**, **Health and Wellness Resource Center**.

Provides extensive coverage of peer-reviewed, full-text articles from journals, magazines, newspapers, reference materials and multimedia sources. Provides citation information in **APA** and **MLA** styles.

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### Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL)

<http://www.kyvl.org>

(Available Off Campus—Contact library for current *Username & Password*)

Resources: **EBSCOhost**, **Literary Reference Center**, **Grolier Encyclopedias** (Encyclopedia Americana), **ProQuest**, **Kentuckiana Digital Library** and **Kentucky Statistics**.

Click on the link, [Find Books, Articles, and More](#), to connect directly to a database.

The following databases may be of interest to English students and are available through EBSCOhost: **Academic Search Premier**, **Literary Reference Center**, **Newspaper Source**, **Master FILE Premier**, **TOPICsearch**.

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### NetLibrary (Electronic Books)

<http://www.netlibrary.com>

(Available Off Campus—**Must create a free account on campus first.**)

Provides full-text access to hundreds of fiction and nonfiction books of interest to students studying African American literature. Provides works by African American authors as well as books on literary criticism. For example: Langston Hughes, Toni Morrison and Zora Neale Hurston. These ebooks are listed in the BGTC Library Catalog and are indicated by the words, [electronic resource], following the book's title in the catalog listing.

## Website Resources

- **Africans in America:** <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/home.html>  
Companion website to the PBS 4-part documentary, covering the years 1450 through 1865..
- **American Slave Narratives: An Online Anthology:**  
<http://xroads.virginia.edu/%7EHYPER/wpa/wpahome.html>  
Collection of full-text narratives from thirteen African American former slaves. Includes brief biographies of each narrator. From the University of Virginia.
- **Black Literature:** <http://www.blackliterature.com/>
- **Digital Librarian: African American:** <http://www.digital-librarian.com/africanamerican.html>

- **Shomburg Center for Research in Black Culture:**  
<http://www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html>  
 Located in Harlem, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture is one of the most widely used research facilities in the world devoted to preserving materials on the history and culture of peoples of African descent. Provides useful information pertaining to African-American authors and literature.
- **Western Kentucky University Library Research Guide on African American Studies:**  
<http://www.wku.edu/Library/dlps/rsrchguides/dept/html/afrstud.htm>

## Evaluation & Citation

The Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL) has tutorials on how to do research at <http://www.kyvl.org/html/tutorial/research/>.

Provides assistance with *Evaluating Information*, *Searching the Web* and *Citing Sources*.

Evaluate all information carefully. Websites present additional challenges. Use the evaluation criteria below to determine the quality of information sources.

- |                 |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| #1: Authority   | (who's responsible?)         |
| #2: Accuracy    | (is this for real?)          |
| #3: Objectivity | (what's the bottom line?)    |
| #4: Currency    | (how timely is this?)        |
| #5: Coverage    | (what's included? excluded?) |

A good researcher uses a standard citation format to identify the information used and give credit to its creator. Consistency is crucial.

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