



**St John's College Library**

**SUBJECT GUIDE:**  
**ENGLISH**  
**LITERATURE**

# Resources for English Literature

## 1. Books

Works of interest to English Literature students will largely be found on the First floor under classmark P:

- PE English language (Old and Middle)
- PN General literature works
- PR Specifically English literature
- PS American literature in English
- PA Classical tragedy works

Standard reference works (OED, Roget's Thesaurus, dictionaries of quotations, handbooks of English usage, etc.) may be found in the Reference section on the Ground floor.

### ***The arrangement of the Literature section is as follows:***

PN 1-241	General works
PN 441-1009	Literary history
PN 1010-1525	Poetry
PN 1600-3307	Drama
PN 3311-3503	Prose
PN 4001-4355	Oratory
PN 4699-5650	Journalism
PN 6010-6790	Collections of general literature

### ***English literature:***

PR 1-78	Literary history and criticism
PR 111-116	Women authors (general works)
PR 125-138	Comparisons with other literatures
PR 161-479	Literary history by period
PR 171-236	Anglo-Saxon literature (to 1066)
PR 251-369	Medieval. Middle English. (1066 - 1500)
PR 401-429	English Renaissance (1500 - 1640)
PR 431-439	17th century

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PR 441-449	18th century
PR 451-469	19th century
PR 471-479	20th century
PR 500-681	Poetry
PR 621-739	Drama
PR 750-888	Prose
PR 901-981	Miscellaneous

***Anthologies:***

PR 1098-1369	Collections of English literature
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***Works of English literature arranged chronologically, then alphabetically by author within each period:***

PR 1490-1799	Anglo-Saxon literature
PR 1803-2165	Anglo-Norman period. Early & Middle English
PR 2199-3195	English Renaissance (1500 - 1640)
PR 3291-3785	17th & 18th centuries (1640 - 1770)
PR 3991-5990	19th century (1770/1800 - 1890/1900)
PR 6000-6049	1900-1960
PR 6050-6076	1961-
PR 8309-9680	English literature : provincial, local, and outside England

***American literature:***

PS 1-478	Literary history and criticism
PS 501-688	Collections of American literature
PS 700-3576	Individual authors
PS 700-893	Colonial period (17th & 18th century)
PS 991-3390	19th century
PS 3500-3549	1900 - 1960
PS 3550-3576	1961 -

## 2. Journals

All of the Library's journal holdings, listed by subject, are available via the website:

[www.joh.cam.ac.uk/journals](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/journals)

Bound journals are located in the main Penrose sequence on the First Floor. Unbound recent journals are in the periodicals area on the Ground Floor.

Relevant titles include:	Classmark	Holdings
<i>Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature</i>	PR 1.A5	Vol.1- (1921-)
<i>Essays in criticism</i>	PR 1.E8	Vol.13-62 (1963-2012)
<i>Literary Review</i>	Ground Floor	Last 3 years only
<i>London Review of Books</i>	Ground Floor	Last 3 years only
<i>Modern Language Review</i>	PN 1.M6 MOD	Vol.1 (1905-)
<i>Review of English studies</i>	PR 1.R4	Vol.1-25 (1925-49)
[ <i>New series</i> ]	PR 1.R41	Vol.1-63 (1950-2012)
<i>Shandean</i>	SHA	Vol.1- (1989-)
Sight & Sound	Ground Floor	Vol.15 (2005-)
Times Literary Supplement	Ground Floor	1937- (back issues in basement)

Ejournals can be searched via [eresources@cambridge](mailto:eresources@cambridge) (see below for more information).

## 3. Special Collections

Some of the contents of the [Special Collections](#) held in the Old Library may be of interest to students of English. The [manuscript collections](#) contain several examples of Middle English, including a fifteenth century manuscript of *Chaucer's Troilus and Criseide*, as well as many later items of interest, such as an early manuscript of *Sir Philip Sidney's Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, and the autograph of *Thomas Sackville's Complaint of Henry Duke of Buckingham*. Amongst the [printed collections](#) are early, in some cases first, editions of works by authors such as Jonson, Drayton, Dryden, Defoe, Pope, and Sterne. There are also first editions of later works such as Fitzgerald's translation of the *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*, Shelley's *Necessity of atheism*, and the *Lyrical ballads* by Wordsworth and Coleridge. Wordsworth is one of several old *Johnian* authors for whom a more substantial collection of material can be found in the Old Library, which contains various

editions of his works, a few of his books and personal effects, and some of his manuscripts. The Samuel Butler collection contains books by, about, and owned by the author of *Erewhon* and the *Way of all flesh*, as well as manuscripts, music, photographs, pictures, drawings, and personal effects. Please ask the [Special Collections Librarian](#), if you would like to explore these resources further.

#### 4. *Electronic Resources*

[The Library Gateway](#) provides a complete guide to electronic resources available across the University:

[www.lib.cam.ac.uk/eresources/index.php](http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/eresources/index.php)

Select 'English and American Literature' from the drop-down menu. Key resources include:

Arts and Humanities Citation Index

Early English Books Online

Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)

JSTOR

Literature Online (LION)

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

[The English Faculty website](#) has links to online literary and bibliographic resources and relevant societies:

[www.english.cam.ac.uk](http://www.english.cam.ac.uk)

As well as a site dedicated to subject guides by period and genre:

[www.subjects.cam.libguides.com/EnglishSubjectResources](http://www.subjects.cam.libguides.com/EnglishSubjectResources)

*Note: A Raven password is required for remote access off-campus.*

#### **Recommendations**

The College Library aims to provide all works necessary for Part One courses, and a selection of the most important works for Part Two. We receive reading lists from the departmental libraries in advance of each academic year, and continually update the Library collections in response to requests from Directors of Studies, supervisors, and students. If texts you require for your course are not available in the College Library, please talk to a member of Library staff. Recommendation cards for new purchases are located at the Issue Desk, and all reasonable requests will be considered.

#### **Help**

**If you have any difficulty in tracing the material you need, whether in printed or electronic format, please ask a member of Library staff for assistance.**

*Cover photo taken by Andrew Houston*