BOOKS ABOUT AN AUTHOR

About An AUTHOR’S LIFE
– that is, biographical information

About An AUTHOR’S WORK
– that is, literary criticism of what an author has written:
short stories, novels, poems, plays, etc.

Books In/Through The RCC Library

HARDCOPY — Books NOT Online, NOT “E-Books” – But That You Can Hold In Your Hands:

• Search for these using RCC’s Library Catalog – one of the databases from RCC Library’s website LAMP
• Books you can check out of the library are shelved on the 3rd Floor of the RCC Library, both “west” & “east” wings.
• Books on the 3rd Floor “Main Stacks” (book shelves – rows and rows of them) and are shelved by CALL NUMBER using the Library of Congress subject classification system.
• Call numbers are shown on the spine label of a book and indicate respective subject areas – so that books with the same or similar call numbers are about the same or similar subjects and so are shelved next to or near each other.
• RCC Library 3rd Floor books can be checked out for up to three weeks at a time – in fact you can have 20 books checked out at one time for up to 21 days.

ONLINE BOOKS — That Is, Electronic Books / E-Books:

• Search for these - then immediately, conveniently access them fully online – by using from RCC Library’s website LAMP:
  o LIBRARY CATALOG
    NOTE: When searching the RCC Library Catalog and looking at a results list, any title with the bracketed designation [electronic resource] immediately following this title is an e-book.
  o DATABASES A-Z – and especially the “e-book” database: EBSCO E-BOOKS

Finding Books In The RCC Library ABOUT An Author

SUBJECT SEARCHING RCC’S LIBRARY CATALOG

• Why Subject Search?
  o When subject searching, we’re looking for books that have been assigned an official indexing term (or “subject heading” – fixed words or phrases descriptive of some subject).
  o In the RCC Library Catalog, like in most other college/university libraries, the subject headings used are from the official Library of Congress Subject Headings list.
  o These subject headings are assigned by experts who
    ▪ Read or in some other way analyze a given library information resource (book, media item, etc.) to determine what that resource is about (its subject content) in some major way
    ▪ Then assign official Library of Congress subject headings that describe this subject content.
Subject Searching For An Author

- From the **RCC Library website LAMP**, click on **LIBRARY CATALOG**
- Click on the **SUBJECT tab** and in the first text box **type the author’s name** – last name first, then first name.
- Note the two text boxes below this first text box – **SYSTEM SORTED** should be displayed in the first one and **RIVERSIDE LIBRARY** in the second one.

Search Results

- If the RCC Library has books ABOUT an author – then when SUBJECT searching the Library Catalog, what results is a list of “subject headings” (official indexing terms) that begin with the last name of the author, then the first name, then the author’s dates (birth and death dates – or if the author is still living, just a birthdate).

An example of a SUBJECT search results list is shown just below – and so this screen shot from the RCC Library Catalog of the beginning of the list of subject headings that results from SUBJECT searching on the famous American woman novelist Willa Cather (but when searching, typed last name first, then first name – and so: Cather, Willa).

What A SUBJECT Search Results List Tells Us

- The first of these subject headings is usually just the author’s name and dates – with nothing following. This simple subject heading is used for books about an author’s life and work in general.
  - And so in what’s pictured above we see: **Cather Willa 1873-1947** with nothing following – for books about Will Cather’s life and work in general.
Other subject headings in a list of subject headings beginning with an author’s last name, first name, and dates are used for books about some aspect of an author’s work or even about some specific work of the author.

- And so in what’s pictured above we see the subject heading **Cather Willa 1873-1947 Criticism and Interpretation** – for books of literary criticism about Cather’s work.
- Then note too **Cather Willa 1873-1947 My Antonia** and other subject headings that begin with these words – for books about this specific novel by Cather.

To the far right of each of these headings - under the heading: **Entries 31 found** – is a number. This is the number of books that have been assigned that subject heading – and so, for **Cather Willa 1873-1947** with nothing following (for books about Will Cather’s life and work in general) there are 11 books in the RCC Library.

- The **Entries 31 found** indicates the total number of books (31) in the RCC Library that have been assigned one or other of the subject headings beginning with **Cather Willa 1873-1947** and so that are in some major way about Willa Cather’s life and work and/or some specific aspect of it.

### Working With SUBJECT Search Results

- Click on those subject headings that look most likely to give you information you need.
- What results is a list of the title of the books or other items that have been assigned that subject heading – and so are about that subject in some major way.

An example of such a list of titles about some specific subject is shown just below – and so this screen shot from the RCC Library Catalog of the beginning of the list of 11 titles (sorted in this case by “Reverse Year” – so that the most recently published item is listed first) that results from clicking on the first subject heading – **Cather Willa 1887-1947** – that results from a SUBJECT search on Willa Cather.

- From such a title list click on titles that look most likely to give you information you need and what results is the full description (bibliographic record) for that book or other item.

An example of this full description is given just below – and so this screen shot from the RCC Library Catalog of the full description (bibliographic record) for the first item listed above.
The Full Description/Bibliographic Record of a Book or Other Item from the RCC Library Catalog

- The different parts (or “fields”) of this bibliographic record are labeled along its left side – and so: Author, Title, Publisher, etc.

- Especially important for finding this book in the RCC Library is the LOCATION, CALL #, and STATUS information – indicating where in the library this book can be found, what it’s “call number” (or shelf-location number or subject-area number) is, and if it’s available or not (“Check Shelves” means that you’re to “come check the shelves” to find it there).

- Also important is the ADDITIONAL INFORMATION box along to the right of this bibliographic record – with its CHECK FOR CITATION link. Click on this to go to the WorldCat to see the bibliographic record for this same book – but from which its citation (in various standard citation formats – including MLA) is available for copying/pasting and then editing too to make sure it conforms to exact MLA citation formatting.

KEYWORD SEARCHING RCC’s LIBRARY CATALOG

How To KEYWORD Search

- From the RCC Library website LAMP, note that you’re set to KEYWORD search.

- To search for:
  
a) A specific title of a work by a given author...

OR titles of items about a specific work by a given author – that is, “literary criticism” about that specific work

— simply type in the first text box at least one significant word of the title and then at least the author’s last name.

EXAMPLE:

To search for the novel My Antonia by Willa Cather – simply type: antonia cather (this could also be typed: antonia and cather)
b) OR any item in the RCC Library that could either be BY or ABOUT a given author – that is, that is either the work (short story, novel, poem, play, etc.) of a given author OR that is about a given author (and so “literary criticism”)

— simply type in the first text box the name of the author (typed **first name first, then last name**) OR **at least the last name of the author**.

• **Search Results**

  o **When KEYWORD searching for a specific title by a given author** (see example just above), what results is a list of items in which the words you searched appear someplace in the full description/bibliographic record of that item.

    These items may be:
    
    ▪ The actual text of a specific work by the author; OR
    
    ▪ The text of a specific work (especially in the case of short stories, poems, and even plays) in an anthology; OR
    
    ▪ Commentary, discussion, etc. about that specific work by that author – and so in that case, “literary criticism” about the author and/or the work or some specific literary work of an author.

    Clicking on respective titles of these items results in the full description of that title – from which you can then determine the **LOCATION, CALL #, and STATUS** of the item and so where to find it in the library and/or how to access it if it’s in electronic format.

  o **When KEYWORD searching just on name of an author** – either on the **name of the author typed first name first, then last name** or on **just the last name of the author** – what results is a list of titles items in which that author’s name (either both names or just the last name depending on how you searched) appears someplace in the full description/bibliographic record of those items.

    Again, these items may be:
    
    ▪ The actual text of a specific work by the author; OR
    
    ▪ The text of a specific work (especially in the case of short stories, poems, and even plays) in an anthology; OR
    
    ▪ Commentary, discussion, etc. about that specific work by that author – and so in that case, “literary criticism” about the author and/or the work or some specific literary work of an author.

    Clicking on respective titles of these items results in the full description of that title – from which you can then determine the **LOCATION, CALL #, and STATUS** of the item and so where to find it in the library and/or how to access it if it’s in electronic format.