

## TUTORIAL: Using the Literary Criticism series published by Gale

### DEFINITIONS

If you need a refresher on the distinctions made by literary scholars between *analysis*, *criticism*, and *explication*, scan these class notes placed on the Web by Prof. Lyman Baker for his English students at Kansas State University:

Criticism and Critical Analysis

[http://www.k-state.edu/english/baker/english320/cc-critical\\_analysis.htm](http://www.k-state.edu/english/baker/english320/cc-critical_analysis.htm)

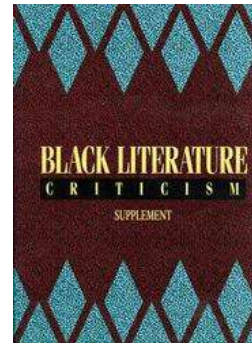
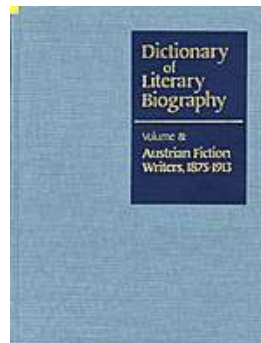
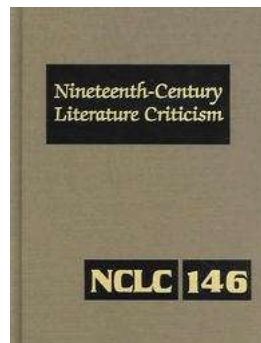
Explication vs. Analysis

<http://www.k-state.edu/english/baker/english320/cc-explication.htm>

### GALE LITERARY CRITICISM WORKS

The series of works on literary criticism were published by Gale Thomson (formerly Gale Research Associates) until that company revamped under the Gale Cengage Learning publishing company. These literary critiques have supplied students from several generations with analyses of literary works. The series is actually a collection of series that classify literary criticism by authors, genres, nationalities, and time periods.

The editors add volumes to each series periodically, sometimes one volume a year, and, sometimes multiple volumes per year. Pictured below are individual volumes from just a few of the most prominent series published by Gale.



Since the call numbers for each series differ, many libraries shelve the Gale series together.



### LOCATING ENTRIES IN THE GALE SERIES

There are a number of methods for helping patrons locate entries in the Gale series.

#### 1. Direct patrons to the indices in the print volumes.

At the end of each volume, you will find cumulative indices – author, subject, etc. Each index entry designates where you will find articles throughout the entire series. The initials of the sources (e.g., Contemporary Literary Criticism is CLC) are followed by the volume number. No page numbers are given because within each volume, entries are arranged alphabetically by author.

Example: Here’s a page from the Author Index in a volume of *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Under Achebe it lists the volumes which include critical articles on Achebe’s work by the abbreviation assigned to that series. So, **BLC 1** indicates an article can be found in the series, *Black Literary Criticism* Volume 1. **CLC 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 26**, etc. indicates that articles can be found in the series, *Contemporary Literary Criticism* in all those volumes.

### Literary Criticism Series Cumulative Author Index

Author Index

Achebe, (Albert) Chinua(lumogo)  
1930- .... BLC 1; CLC 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 26,  
51, 75, 127, 152; WLC  
See also AAYA 15; AFW; BPF 1; BRWC  
2; BW 2, 3; CA 1-4R; CANR 6, 26, 47,  
124; CDWLB 3; CLR 20; CN 1, 2, 3, 4,  
5, 6, 7; CP 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; CWRI 5; DA;  
DA3; DAB; DAC; DAM MST, MULT,  
NOV; DLB 117; DNFS 1; EWL 3; EXPN;  
EXPS; LAIT 2; LATS 1.2; MAICYA 1, 2;  
MTCW 1, 2; MTFW 2005; NFS 2; RGEL  
2; RGSF 2; SATA 38, 40; SATA-Brief 38;  
SSFS 3, 13; TWA; WLIT 2; WWE 1

Acker, Kathy 1948-1997 ..... CLC 45, 111  
See also AMWS 12; CA 117; 122; 162;  
CANR 55; CN 5, 6; MAL 5

Adams, Richard (George) 1920- ... CLC 4, 5,  
18  
See also AAYA 16; AITN 1, 2; BPF 1;  
BYA 5; CA 49-52; CANR 3, 35, 128;  
CLR 20; CN 4, 5, 6, 7; DAM NOV; DLB  
261; FANT; JRDA; LAIT 5; MAICYA 1,  
2; MTCW 1, 2; NFS 11; SATA 7, 69;  
YAW

Adamson, Joy(-Friederike Victoria)  
1910-1980 ..... CLC 17  
See also CA 69-72; 93-96; CANR 22;  
MTCW 1; SATA 11; SATA-Obit 22

Adenck, Fleur 1934- ..... CLC 41  
See also CA 25-28R, 182; CAAE 182;  
CAAS 23; CANR 11, 34, 69, 101; CP 1,  
2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; CWP; DLB 40; FW; WWE

## 2. Purchase the paperback guides.

Gale sells separate paperback guides for each series. These guides contain an index limited to one particular series. They are updated periodically. The entries are formatted in the same way that the cumulative indexes (described above) are indexed.

Example: On the left, you see the paperback index to the *Contemporary Literary Criticism* series. On the right, you see Volume 218 from the series. The paperback guide covers the entire series.



## 3. Conduct a search on Gale's Literary Index.

The Literary Index is a free online index to the Gale literary works. You can find it on the Web at <http://www.galenet.com/servlet/LitIndex>

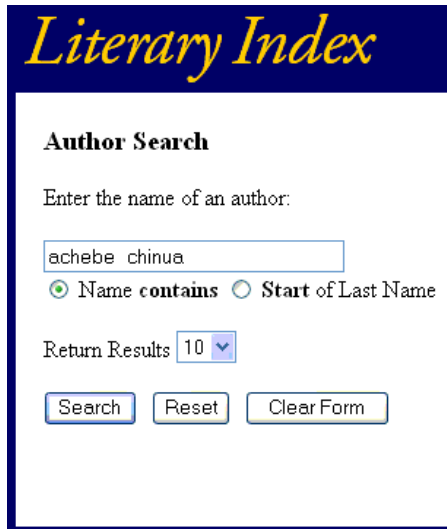
*Literary Index*

**Author Search**  
Find which Gale literature series include entries on an author.

**Title Search**  
Search for the title of a literary work to see who wrote it and/or where it's discussed in Gale's literature criticism series.

**Custom Search**  
Look for authors in the Index by name, birth date, death date, or nationality.

Here's a search on Nigerian author,  
Chinua Achebe.



Here are the results:

The list of works is too long to show here. The excerpt below shows how entries display.

**(Albert) Chinua(lumogu) Achebe**

**1930-**

**Nationality:** Nigerian

**Gale series that include an entry on this author:**

- African Writers (Charles Scribner's Sons, an imprint of Gale)
- Authors and Artists for Young Adults, volume(s) 15
- Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: Biography & Resources, volume(s) 1
- Black Literature Criticism, edition(s) 1
- Black Writers, edition(s) 2, 3
- British Writers: The Classics (Charles Scribner's Sons, an imprint of Gale), volume(s) 2
- Children's Literature Review, volume(s) 20
- Concise Dictionary of World Literary Biography, volume(s) 3
- Contemporary Authors, volume(s) 1-4R
- Contemporary Authors New Revision Series, volume(s) 6, 26, 47, 124
- Contemporary Literary Criticism, volume(s) 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 26, 51, 75, 127, 152
- Contemporary Novelists (St. James Press, an imprint of Gale), edition(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

The advantage of using the Literary Index is not only its speed and convenience. The citations that the online search produce contain the complete titles of the series, so patrons do not have to look up the abbreviations.

If a patron wants to find a list of Nigerian authors who are contemporaries of Achebe, you can use the Custom search. It lets you designate nationality and limit to birth and-or death years.

Here's the search:

Here are the results:

Found 77 Documents  
Document(s) 1-10 of 77

Page#: [1](#) - [2](#) - [3](#) - [4](#) - [5](#) - [6](#) - [7](#) - [8](#)

- Document Title**
- [Abdullahi, Guda](#)
  - [Abraham, William E.](#)
  - [Achebe, Albert Chinualumogu](#)
  - [Aguolu, Christian Chukwunedu](#)
  - [Aig-Imoukhuede, Frank Abiodun](#)
  - [Ake, Claude](#)

#### 4. Subscribe to the Literature Resource Center.

This is an online Gale collection, partly full-text articles and partly citations, that can be searched through a single search form. The default is an Author search, but other types of searches are possible. See the form below. Other search types include Title, Advanced, Keyword, Authors by Type, and Literary-Historical Timeline.

Here's my search on Chinua Achebe.



### Author Search

[Search](#) [Clear Form](#)

Other Searches:		
<a href="#">Title</a>	<a href="#">Advanced</a>	<a href="#">Keyword</a>
<a href="#">Authors by Type</a>	<a href="#">Literary-Historical Timeline</a>	

Here is the first batch of results. Note the tabs across the top of the page. In an author search, the first screen defaults to “Biographies” (if there are any). To find literary criticism, click on the next tab.

**Current Results** Your search, **Chinua Achebe**, returned results in the following categories:

[Biographies](#)
[Literary Criticism, Articles, & Work Overviews](#)
[Bibliographies](#)
[Additional Resources](#)
[Literary-Historical Timeline](#)

**Chinua Achebe**  
(1930-)

**Variant(s):** Albert Chinualumogu Achebe  
**Nationality:** Ibo; Nigerian  
**Genre(s):** Children's literature; Essays; Novels; Poetry; Political fiction; Short stories; Social novels

**Page: 1**  
Below are items 1-3 of 3 found.

**Update Mark List**

Add to Mark List

- Achebe, (Albert) Chinua(lumogu)  
[“\(Albert\) Chinua\(lumogu\) Achebe”, in \*Contemporary Authors Online\*. \(A profile of the author's life and works\)](#)
- Achebe, (albert) Chinua(lumogu)  
[“\(albert\) Chinua\(lumogu\) Achebe,” in \*Contemporary Literary Criticism-Select\*. \(A brief review of the author's life, works, and critical reception\)](#)
- Achebe, Chinua  
[“Chinua Achebe,” in \*Dictionary of Literary Biography, Volume 117: Twentieth-Century Caribbean and Black African Writers, First Series\*, A Brucoli Clark Layman Book, Edited by Bernth Lindfors, and Reinhard Sander., The Gale Group,](#)

This switches you to the “Literary Criticism” findings. The hot-linked citations indicate that you will find the full-text.

[Biographies](#)
[Literary Criticism, Articles, & Work Overviews](#)
[Bibliographies](#)
[Additional Resources](#)
[Literary-Historical Timeline](#)

[Literary Criticism](#)
[Articles](#)
[Work Overviews](#)

**Page: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4**  
Below are items 1-10 of 35 found.

**Update Mark List**

Add to Mark List

- Achebe, (Albert) Chinua(lumogu)  
[Swann, Joseph. “From ‘Things Fall Apart’ to ‘Anthills of the Savannah’: The Changing Face of History in Achebe’s Novels.” in \*Crisis and Creativity in the New Literature in English\*. edited by Geoffrey V. Davis and Hena Maes-Jelinek, Rodopi, 1990, pp. 191-203. Reproduced by permission. Reproduced in \*Contemporary Literary Criticism-Select\*.](#)
- Achebe, (Albert) Chinua(lumogu)  
[Ravenscroft, A., “Recent Fiction From Africa: Chinua Achebe's ‘Anthills of the Savannah’—A Note,” in \*The Literary Criterion\*, Vol. 23, Nos. 1-2, 1988, pp. 172-75. Reproduced by permission. Reproduced in \*Contemporary Literary Criticism-Select\*.](#)
- Achebe, (Albert) Chinua(lumogu)  
[Roscoe, Adrian A., “West African Prose,” in his \*Mother Is Gold: A Study in West African Literature\*, Cambridge University Press, 1971, pp. 71-131.](#)

The Gale Literature resource Center also incorporates full-text journal articles, reference book entries, and more. For full details, see the Gale product page at <http://gdc.gale.com/gale-literature-collections/literature-resource-center/> Unfortunately, VSU does not subscribe to this collection.