

Contemporary Authors Navigation Guide

Sources

- The entire print version of Contemporary Authors vol. 1+
- The entire print version of Contemporary Authors New Revisions vol. 1+

Getting Started

The screen will ask you to select a collection to search. Click on the **Contemporary Authors** title.

Search Options

There are several ways to find an author in Contemporary Authors. You can use the author's name, title of work, birth year, death year, nationality and several other options. You may enter terms in a single field, in several fields, or in all of the fields. If you enter terms in more than one field, the search engine automatically uses the AND search operator, looking for entries that contain each of the terms in the specified fields.

The screenshot shows the Gale Literary Databases search interface. The top navigation bar includes 'The Gale Group' logo and 'Gale Literary Databases' with a sub-menu for 'Contemporary Authors'. Below the navigation bar, there are four tabs: 'Search All Literature Databases', 'Contemporary Authors' (which is selected), 'Contemporary Literary Criticism', and 'Dictionary of Literary Biography'. The main search area is titled 'Enter your search criteria below:' and contains several input fields: 'Author Name', 'Title of Work', 'Birth Year', 'Death Year', 'Nationality' (a dropdown menu set to 'None'), 'Subject/Genre' (a dropdown menu set to 'None'), 'Full Text', 'Birth Place', 'Death Place', 'Personal Info', 'Career', 'Honors and Awards', and 'Media Adaptations'. There are 'Search' and 'Clear Form' buttons for the main search area and another set for the 'Full Text' field. A 'Return results' dropdown menu is set to '10'. The footer of the interface reads '© 1999 The Gale Group. All rights reserved.'

Author Name Search

Within the Author Name field, enter a complete name or any word or combination of words known to be part of the author's name. Variant names and pseudonyms used by the author are also searchable as part of the Author Name index. For example, Gore Vidal or Vidal, Gore could be used; Hemingway or Ernst could also be used.

Title of Work Search

Within the Title of Work field, enter a complete title of any word or combination of words known to be in the title. For Example: Breathing Lessons, Confederate, hot and cold

Birth or Death Year Search

Within the Birth or Death Year fields, you may enter a specific year or a range of years. For example: 1936, 1950-1959 (for any year 1950-1959).

Nationality Search

Within the Nationality field, select a nationality from the pull-down list.

Subject/Genre Search

The Subject and Genre descriptors are assigned terms that indicate the type and broad subject of the author's writings. Within the Subject/Genre field, select a subject or genre from the pull-down list.

Full Text Search

The Full Text field searches for the presence of any word or words within the entry's main essay text and additional text fields, as well as all forms of the author's name, the author's works, genres, and subjects. For those instances in which a search in a particular field results in zero records, you may want to use the Full Text search function.

Birth or Death Place Search

The Birth Place and Death Place fields contain city and state or city and country information. Within the Birth Place or Death Place fields, use a word or phrase. When searching by state, enter all known forms of the state name. For example: Augusta, OK or Ok. or Okla. or Oklahoma, Ireland.

Personal Information Search

The Personal Information field contains the author's date and place of birth; family data, including parents, spouse(s), and child(ren); educational background information; religious and political affiliation(s); avocational interests; military service background; and address information. When searching this field for birth information, enter a date or year of birth, or the name(s) of parents. When searching this field for other personal information, enter a word or combination of words. For example: November 8 1900 (for an exact date of birth), Eleanor Roosevelt, Detroit, Tokyo Japan, backpacking, Democrat.

Career Search

The Career field contains a summary of the author's career, noting job title, employer, years, and other details. Within this field, enter a word or combination of words that

specify a particular job title, field of endeavor, place of employment, or a related concept. For example: professor, accountant, lecturer, Michigan State University.

Honors and Awards Search

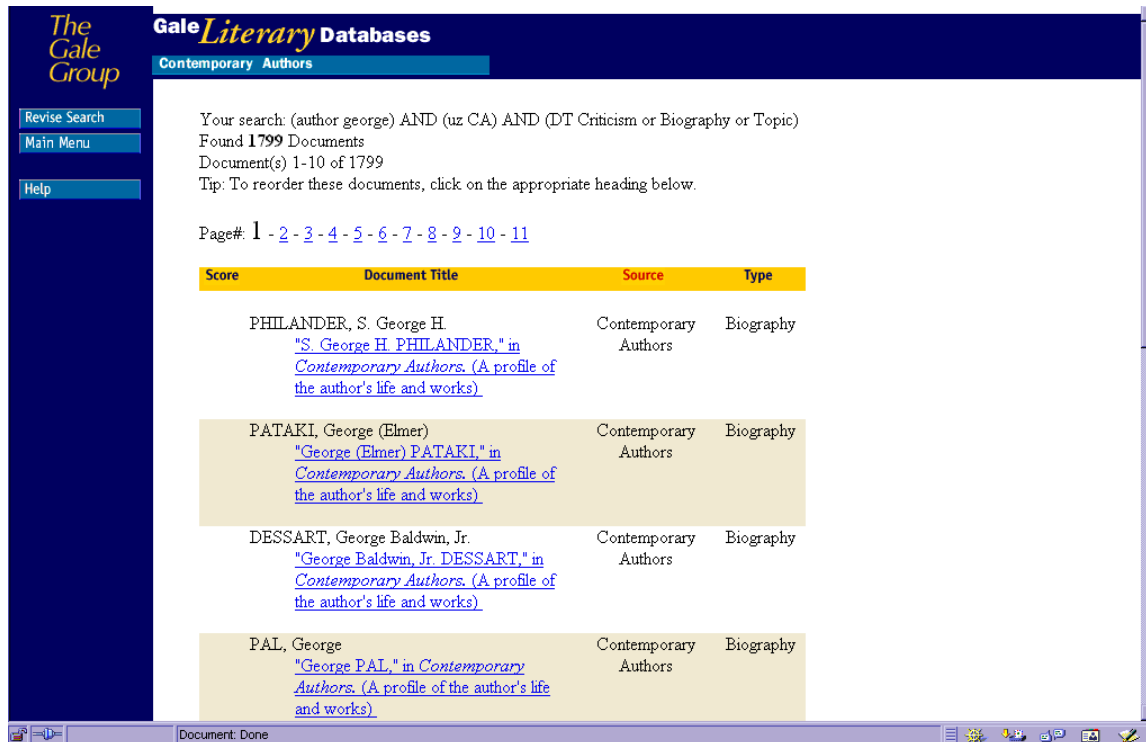
Within the Honors and Awards field, enter a word or combination of words that specify a literary prize or award. For example: Nobel, Caldecott, Newberry, "American Book Award.

Media Adaptations Search

Within the Media Adaptation field, enter a word or combination of words that specify a medium title, or related concept. For example: television, hallmark hall of fame.

Navigating Results

Once you have filled in your search criteria and selected Search, you will be presented with a list of the documents that fulfill your query. Your search criteria is repeated at the top of the screen for your reference. The number of documents found and the first set of documents is also displayed.



The screenshot shows the Gale Literary Databases interface. The search criteria is: (author george) AND (uz CA) AND (DT Criticism or Biography or Topic). 1799 documents were found. The results are sorted by Score, with the 'Score' column highlighted in yellow. The first four results are:

Score	Document Title	Source	Type
	PHILANDER, S. George H. "S. George H. PHILANDER," in Contemporary Authors. (A profile of the author's life and works)	Contemporary Authors	Biography
	PATAKI, George (Elmer) "George (Elmer) PATAKI," in Contemporary Authors. (A profile of the author's life and works)	Contemporary Authors	Biography
	DESSART, George Baldwin, Jr. "George Baldwin, Jr. DESSART," in Contemporary Authors. (A profile of the author's life and works)	Contemporary Authors	Biography
	PAL, George "George PAL," in Contemporary Authors. (A profile of the author's life and works)	Contemporary Authors	Biography

By default, results lists are sorted by relevance; each document's relevancy score is indicated in the Score column. Please note that the "most relevant" document will be listed first.

The column heading by which the documents in a results list is being sorted is indicated with highlighting. For example, the result list in the image above is being sorted by Score.

To reorder the documents using another column as the sort criteria, simply click on the column's heading. This will change your default sort order for all future searches until you reset it.

Tip: For searches based on relevancy, only the first 200 documents will be retrieved. However, if your search is intended to determine the number of documents that meet your criteria and this number exceeds 200, simply select another column to serve as the basis of the sorting order. The total number of hits will be displayed whenever the order is not based on relevancy.

If your search has resulted in more documents than you specified to be returned to you on the search page (that is, if you requested 10 results per page and there are more than 10 documents that fulfill your query), you can navigate to the other pages of the results list using the First Page, Previous Page, Next Page, and Last Page buttons that will be rendered, when appropriate, in the navigation bar at the left of the screen. These buttons may also be available at the bottom of the result list to save you from having to scroll back to the top of the list.

Navigating Documents

Once you have selected a document from a results list, it will be retrieved and displayed. Many documents have internal Table of Contents sections that will make it easy for you to jump directly to the component of information in which you are interested.

In addition, there are a series of buttons that will be displayed in the navigation bar at the left of screen to enable you to quickly retrieve other documents in your results list. First Document retrieves the first document in the list, Previous Document recalls the document immediately preceding the document you are currently viewing, Next Document accesses the document immediately following the document you are viewing, and Last Document jumps directly to the last document in the results list. Finally, you may also select Results List to return to your result list and navigate it without the aid of these buttons. These document navigation buttons will also be available at the bottom of documents to save you from having to scroll back to the top of the document.

The Gale Group
Gale Literary Databases
Contemporary Authors

John (Ernst) STEINBECK
1902-1968

Nationality: American
Place of Birth: Salinas, California, United States

Genre(s): Novels; Short Stories; Plays; Screenplays; Travel/Exploration; Poetry

Award(s):
General Literature Gold Medal, Commonwealth Club of California, 1936, for *Tortilla Flat*, 1937, for *Of Mice and Men*, and 1940, for *The Grapes of Wrath*; New York Drama Critics Circle Award, 1938, for play, *Of Mice and Men*; Pulitzer Prize, 1940, for *The Grapes of Wrath*; Academy Award nomination for best original story, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 1944, for "Lifeboat," and 1945, for "A Medal for Benny"; Nobel Prize for literature, 1962; Paperback of the Year Award, Best Sellers, 1964, for *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*.

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Search Tips

- Use two or three search terms to refine your search. By using more search terms to narrow your search, you can locate essays that fit your information needs better.
- By default, the search engine finds only those essays containing all of the words you specify; make sure to use the Boolean operators below if you want to search differently.
- Be specific. If you're looking for information about ancient Rome, enter both of those words in your search. If you enter just Rome, your search may give you essays that discuss modern Rome or Rome, N.Y., but not ancient Rome.
- Find an exact phrase with the help of double quotes (" "). You can narrow your searches by requiring that the search terms appear as a phrase in the order that you typed them. Simply enclose your phrase terms in double quotes (" ").
- You can also mix phrases and single search terms in the search box.
- Use plural or other word endings. For example, if you are looking for discussions of murder, search for various forms of the word using the OR operator as the connector, e.g. murder or murderer or murderous.
- Try using synonyms for your original words. For example, "nervous breakdown" or "mental breakdown" or "nervous disorder" or "mental instability".
- The search engine is NOT case sensitive.

Punctuation

Hyphen - A hyphen (-) used between two words is considered part of the term. If you are searching for a word or phrase that normally contains a hyphen, include the hyphen and enclose the word or phrase in quotes.

Apostrophe - Apostrophes (') are not recognized by the search engine and should be deleted from search terms.

Ampersand - Ampersands (&) are not recognized by the search engine. When an ampersand is integral to a search term, it is best to drop the ampersand and use the W (Within) proximity operator.

Wildcards

The * (ampersand) and ? (question mark) are used to search for words or numbers sharing a similar pattern. The * and ? replace alphabetical and numerical characters. The * is placed at the end of the term's root. The search retrieves all words sharing the same root. For example, the term faith* retrieves essays that contain the words faith, faithful, or faiths. The ? is used to replace a single character within a word to retrieve various forms of that word. For example, the term wom?n retrieves essays that contain either woman or women.

Boolean Operators

AND - Use the AND search operator to retrieve documents that contain both of the specified search terms. This operator places no condition on where the terms are found in relation to one another; however, both terms have to appear somewhere in the field you are searching. For example, a full text search for apples AND bananas will find any essay that contains mention both of apples and bananas.

OR - Use the OR search operator to retrieve documents that contain one or both specified search terms. This operator places no condition on where the terms are found in relation to one another; however, one or both terms must appear somewhere in the field you are searching. For example, a full text search for apples OR bananas will find essays that mention apples, essays that mention bananas, and essays that mention both types of fruit.

NOT - Use the NOT search operator to retrieve documents that do not contain the specified term. For example, a full text search for apples NOT bananas will find essays that mention apples but not bananas.

Proximity Operators

The W operator will find essays containing the specified words in the specified order within the number of words you indicate. For example, old w4 sea finds documents that contain the word old within four words of the word sea, and old must precede sea.

The N operator locates documents containing the words you specify within the number of words you specify, but the words can be in any order. For example, apples N4 bananas finds documents that contain the words apples and bananas within four words of each other, regardless of order (that is, bananas could precede or follow apples).

Parentheses - The operators described above each operate on either simple terms (words or phrases) or a more complex query delimited by parentheses (). Parentheses allow you to construct very powerful queries.

- For more information about Contemporary Authors, check out the Help and About features located in the blue area on the left-hand side of the database.