Finding Literary Criticism @ the Library

Step 1
Go to the library webpage at http://www.hsutx.edu/library or come in to the library and ask for assistance.

Step 2
To search for books the library owns, choose the Library Books & More tab on the library’s main page. This searches the Abilene Library Consortium (ALC) online catalog or you can limit it to search just HSU. The ALC libraries include HSU, ACU, McMurry, Howard Payne and the Abilene Public Library.

To search by keyword for literary criticism, type the first and last name of your subject author and add the word “criticism” as well.

Adding the word “criticism” is useful because you are looking for materials that critically analyze the literature. (Example: Emily Dickinson criticism)

Step 3
To find other materials such as scholarly articles, click on Subject Guides on the library webpage.

Step 4
Choose Literature & Literary Criticism. You will see a box that says “Literature Research Roundup”. Put your search terms in the box such as the name of the poet, author or playwright and the name of the work you want to analyze.

(Example: William Faulkner Rose for Emily)
This search should give you a list of results. To limit to ones you can read online. Click the FULL TEXT box.

Step 5
On the left side of the Literature subject page you will see Specialized Resources. These are separate databases that are useful for language and literature searches. You can search them individually to get smaller result sets.

Artemis contains Literature Resource Center, Twayne’s Author Series, Scribner Writers Series, and Something About the Author (children and young adult writers) which have full-text, as is Literature Reference Center. Try them in addition or before Research Roundup.

Modern Language Association (MLA) International Bibliography is the most comprehensive electronic database for finding literary criticism, however it is not in and of itself a full-text database. It contains citations to journal articles, essays, books, and dissertations and links to some full-text articles in other databases.

JSTOR is a trusted archive of scholarly content with back issues to journals in the disciplines of the arts, sciences, humanities, business, and mathematics.

Step 6
Reference Materials in paper available on the 1st floor, often use to find “core” criticism.

The librarians are here to help--DON’T BE SHY about asking for assistance!
ENW 2015