Locating information on an individual poem requires using a number of different sources. You may have to look up the poem and the poet in addition to the critique. The following guide will provide suggestions for your research.

Use the online catalog to find information on the poet and collections of poetry. To locate literary criticism, type in the name of the poet or the title of the poem and add “criticism or interpretation” in parenthesis.

For example: Robert Frost and (criticism or interpretation)

TO LOCATE INDIVIDUAL POEMS

*The Columbia Granger’s Index to Poetry, 1904-* Index Table 7B

*Index to Black Poetry, 1974* Index Table 7B

*Index to Poetry for Children and Young Adults, 1942-1981* Index Table 7B

CRITICISM AND INTERPRETATION OF POEMS

Bloom’s Literary Criticism Index Table 5 & 6

These may be located in the online catalog by performing a “words or phrase” search using the terms “Bloom” and the author’s name or title of the work.

For example: Bloom and Emily Dickinson

Bloom and the Wasteland

*Guide to American Poetry Explication, 1989* Index Table 7B

Volume 1: Colonial to Nineteenth Century, Volume 2: Modern and Contemporary. This work lists books and journal articles on criticism of particular poems and is arranged by author’s last name and then the title of the poem.

*Guide to British Poetry Explication, 1991* Index Table 7B

Volume 1: Old English–Medieval; Volume 2: Renaissance; Volume 3: Restoration–Romantic. This work lists books and journal articles on criticism of particular poems and is arranged by author’s last name and then the title of the poem.

*Critical Survey of Poetry, 2003, 2nd Rev Ed, 8 Vols* Index Table 7B

Covers 698 poets from a variety of countries. Each entry lists principal poetry; other literary forms; achievements; biography; analysis of poet’s themes, techniques, style, and development; and a bibliography of other resources.
Poetry Criticism

This multi-volume set contains biographical information on poets and critical excerpts on the poet's work.

RESOURCES FOR ALL LITERARY FORMS INCLUDING POETRY

Dictionary of Literary Biography (DLB) PN501 D5 REF

This multi-volume set provides biographical information and critical excerpts on authors and their works, including poets and poetry. To locate the volumes on poetry in the online catalog, perform a "words or phrase" search using this phrase: dictionary and literary and biography and (poet? or poem?)

Nineteenth Century Literature Criticism (NCLC) PN761 N56 REF

This multi-volume set provides biographical information and critical excerpts on novelists, playwrights, short story writers, and other creative writers who died between 1800-1899.

Twentieth Century Literary Criticism (TCLC) PN771 G27 REF

This multi-volume set provides biographical information and critical excerpts on novelists, playwrights, short story writers, and other creative writers who died between 1900-1959.

Contemporary Literary Criticism (CLC) PN771 C59 REF

This multi-volume set provides biographical information and critical excerpts on novelists, playwrights, short story writers, and other creative writers now living or who died after December 31, 1959.

GENERAL REFERENCE SOURCES

Masterplots II: Poetry Reference Desk

This multi-volume set provides information on the themes of major works of poetry.

PERIODICAL RESOURCES

Humanities Index, 1907- Index Table 1A

Previous titles: International Index and Social Sciences and Humanities Index.

This multi-volume set provides citations to articles on poets and poetry. Look up the author’s name by last name to find biographical and critical articles.

Literature Resource Center

This electronic resource is the best place to begin your search for literary criticism and information on authors.

Literary Reference Center

This full text database provides access to articles on literature.

Academic Search Premier

This electronic resource covers a wide array of topics. Search by author’s name or title of the poem.