



Finding Books That Match Your Interest (English 101A)

Library Home Page: <http://www.chabotcollege.edu/Library/>

Libraries are organized different than bookstores. An alphanumeric system called the Library of Congress Classification determines where a book will be shelved. While bookstores are designed for people to browse materials to eventually select a book to purchase, libraries are designed for people to find books on very specific information. Broad categories just will not do. Each item needs to be placed where it will be predictably found.

In academic libraries, non-fictional works can sometimes fit in more than one area, so a decision is made where that book will fit (what is its main subject). Fictional works (let alone all works of literature) are grouped by language, author's home country, and time period of the author. Therefore, you will need to search the Library Catalog, first, and in the case of works of fiction, you may need to search a bibliography or a database such as Literature Resource Center.

If you did not select books at today's orientation, you will need to use these sources. If you need help, please come to the left side of the main desk and ask for help from a librarian. We will be more than happy to teach you how to use the Library Catalog, Literature Resource Center, and relevant bibliographies from our reference shelves.

Library Catalog—Finding Books and Videos: <http://tinyurl.com/8mo5z>

Search the library catalog for books related to a topic of your interest. Select a topic and create a search statement. Find a book and then its call number.

Searching the Catalog: Make sure **words or phrase** is selected underneath **Search** For and narrow your search down to **Chabot College** if you only want to find books available at Chabot. Combine different terms such as: California AND conservation. Enter your terms with AND in between and then click on .

See [Your Search Strategy](#) for more information on phrasing a search statement.

california AND conservation | words or phrase | Search

library: ALL

Power Search

If finding works of fiction: Enter the title of the book or the author.

toni morrison | words or phrase | Search

library: ALL

Power Search

- words or phrase
- author
- title
- subject
- series
- periodical title

If you are searching books by type, we recommend you search a bibliography or Literature Resource Center, first.

Finding books in [Literature Resource Center](#)

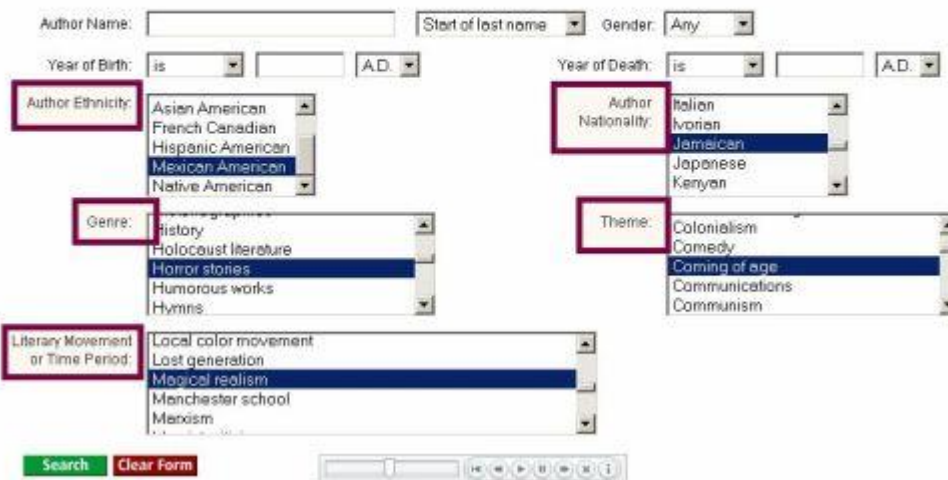
1. Go to **Magazines, Journal Articles, Newspapers** from the Navigation screen
2. Under Literary Criticism, select **Literature Resource Center**.
3. Click on **Proceed**.
4. Select **Authors by Type**



5. From there, make at least one selection before selecting search. Look at the selections under Author Ethnicity, Genre, Theme, or Literary Movement. For example, “Mexican American” is listed under **Author Ethnicity**, “Horror Stories” is listed under **Genre**, “Coming of Age” is listed under **Theme**, and “Magical Realism” is listed under **Literary Movement or Time Period**.


Authors by Type

To select more than one option within each search box hold down the CTRL key while making additional selections



*Note: In most cases, you will make at most two choices at one time, otherwise you'll likely come up with no results.

6. A list of authors will appear, often spanning a number of screens, last name from A to Z. You should find at least five that interest you (take your time doing this. Don't select the first five, all with a last name starting with "A"—really choose).
7. On the author screen, quickly read a biography listed below the name. If you just want a list of books, click on the **Bibliographies** tab (See top of next page)

 Your search, **Sandra Cisneros**, returned results in the following categories:

Biographies Literary Criticism, Articles, & Work Overviews **Bibliographies** Additional Resources Literary-Historical Timeline

Sandra Cisneros
(1954-)

Nationality: American; Mexican
Genre(s): Autobiographies; Poetry; Short stories; Young adult literature
Literary Movement/Time Period: American postmodern literature

Keep in mind that the ideal book you will find may not be in the Library's collection.

Books at Las Positas College

The Library Catalog lists books that are available in Chabot's and Las Positas' colleges' collections. If the book you find is in Las Positas' collection, go to the right side of the desk and ask for it. The book will arrive, underneath your name, the following Tuesday or Thursday afternoon (with at least a day's notice). If you need the book sooner, head to Las Positas College. Your Student ID card is your Library card, and will work at both colleges.

But what if the book does not come up in the Library Catalog?

If this happens, you have two choices:

1. Find another book

Or, better yet . . .

2. Search another Library Catalog, and check the book out from that Library. As a resident in California, you can get a library card at any library of the Alameda County Library branch, and be able to use that card at any Alameda County Library branch and for most books at the California State University, East Bay Library, too.

For more information and to print out a Library Card application to bring with you, go to <http://tinyurl.com/2ygrv9>.

To find the closest library to you (to get your Library Card), go to <http://tinyurl.com/2r6rl3>.

If you search the Alameda Library Catalog, first, (link below), you may want to simply go to the branch that has the book. That way you can get your card, AND your book.

Search Other Library Catalogs

To quickly find what nearby libraries have your desired book, select one of the links below, or go to **Other Library Catalogs** on the Library Home Page and select WorldCAT.

Alameda County Library Catalog: <http://alam1.aclibrary.org/>

California State East Bay Library Catalog: <http://134.154.30.10>