

Cerritos College Library

In the Wilford Michael Library & Learning Resource Center

CHICANO LITERATURE

Getting Background Information on Your Topic

Your search for information in *Chicano Literature* and *Chicano Writers* can include books, periodicals, online databases, and authoritative Internet resources. For this topic, you may also want to examine resources related to Latino literature, since the two often overlap. Within the guidelines of the assignment given to you by your instructor, select a topic that you find interesting. Once you have selected a topic for your paper, use the general reference books available in the library to get background information on your topic. Reference books such as the encyclopedias, dictionaries, and handbooks listed below are a good starting point for your research because they help you become better acquainted with your topic.

Reference Books

American Ethnic Literatures

REFERENCE PS153 .M56 P43 1992

Dictionary of Literary Biography Volume 82:

Chicano Writers, First Series

REFERENCE PS53 .M4 C48 1989

Dictionary of Literary Biography Volume 122:

Chicano Writers, Second Series

REFERENCE PS153 .C484 1992

Dictionary of Literary Biography Volume 209:

Chicano Writers, Third Series

REFERNECE PS153 .M4 C485 1999

Identities and Issues in Literature

REFERENCE PS153 .M56 I34 1997

Latino and Latina Writers

REFERENCE PS153 .H56 L39 2004

Literatura Chicana: Creative and Critical Writings Through 1984

REFERENCE PS153.M4 T78 1985

New Immigrant Literatures in the United States: A Sourcebook to Our Multicultural Literary Heritage

REFERENCE PS153 .M56 N475 1996

Getting More Information on Your Topic

Once you have done your background research you will be ready to conduct more comprehensive research using books, journals, magazines, newspapers, and the Internet.

Books

Use the [Library Catalog](#) located on the Cerritos College [Library Home Page](#) to find books on your topic that are available in the Cerritos College Library. Books can provide a broad overview of a topic or in-depth information.

You can search for books by *Author*, *Title*, *Subject*, or *Keyword*. Suggested subject headings include:

- American fiction – Hispanic American authors
- American literature – Mexican American authors
- American poetry – Mexican American authors
- Hispanic American women – Literary collections
- Hispanic Americans in literature
- Mexican American Authors – American Literature
- Mexican American Authors – History and criticism – American Fiction
- Short stories, American – Mexican American authors

CHICANO LITERATURE

Newspaper and Magazine Articles

Journals and magazines usually provide the most current information on a topic. Journal articles are more scholarly or professional while magazine articles tend to be shorter and more general. Newspaper articles, while not usually scholarly or professional, can give you the most current news and some additional facts on your topic.

To find articles on your topic, use one of the online databases listed below. These databases usually provide full-text articles on almost every topic. They are available via the [Library Home Page](#). Conduct your search in these databases by using subject headings and keywords similar to those you used to locate books.

For remote access to the library databases, login to the [Library](#) using your Cerritos College ID number.

For historical research, the Library also has print indexes that must be used to find older articles, generally anything published before 1985.

Online Databases for Chicano Literature:

EBSCOhost
Gale Databases
Project Muse

Proquest Newspapers
Gender Watch

Ethnic News Watch
NewsBank

Print Indexes (shelved in Reference Section):

Readers' Guide
Social Sciences Index

New York Times Index
Los Angeles Times Index

Internet Sites

The Chicano Literature Index

<http://www.accd.edu/sac/english/BAILEY/mexamlit.htm>

Latin American Network Information Center

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/>

Chicano Latino Net

<http://latino.sscnet.ucla.edu/>

Internet Public Library – Latin American: 20th Century

<http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/bin/litcrit.out.pl?pd=Latin+AMerican:+20th+Century>

County of Los Angeles Public Library – Chicano Resource Center

<http://www.colapublib.org/services/ethnic/chicano.php4>

Las Culturas.com

<http://www.lasculturas.com/lib/libGenLit.htm>