

PLAYS

SELECTED SOURCES FOR LOCATING PLAYS

TIPS FOR FINDING PLAYS

- Plays can be found in *various published formats* ... ie., a single copy of a particular play, or in publications such as anthologies, collections or periodicals.
- Plays published as a separate title often appear in a publication referred to as an *acting edition*. An acting edition of a play offers a copy of the complete text with staging directions, production details and other information about the production or history of a specific play. The single copies of a play owned by Smith Library are best located by an author or title search in the library's [Online Catalog](#). The section designated as *Using the Online Catalog* includes examples for performing a search.
- Plays also appear in publications such as *anthologies, collections or periodicals*. Because the *Online Catalog* may not always locate the title of a particular play published in an anthology, collection or periodical, *these publications must often be located by using a basic reference source identified as a "play index"*. Plays published in these formats are frequently grouped together according to subject, author, time period, country/or region and by format (eg., one-act plays). A list of "play indexes" found in Smith Library are included in the section designated as *Reference Resources for Plays*.
- Some complete texts of plays are also available via Internet websites.

USING THE [ONLINE CATALOG](http://read.cnu.edu) (<http://read.cnu.edu>)

The *online catalog* is used to find the publications and other resources located in Smith Library. When looking for plays, you can choose a search by author, title, author/title, subject or keyword.

The best and easiest way to search for plays is by *Author* or *Title*.

Examples of searches include:

Plays located by author:

- Albee, Edward
- Simon, Neil
- Wilder, Thornton

Plays located by title:

- *Lady from Dubuque*
- *Barefoot in the Park*
- *Our town : a play in three acts*

Plays can also be found by a combined author/title search ... useful for a prolific playwright.

Simon and Odd Couple

Keyword searches are primarily used to combine specific or unique words associated with a play or its source. This is a good way to search when you are unsure of the exact word spelling or title of a play. One example is:

Williams and Glass (for Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams)

Subject searches are best to use when you need an overview of titles related to a specific subject.

You may begin with *Broad terms* such as:

- Drama
- Theater
- Comedy

Or you may begin with *Specific terms* such as:

- Drama -- 19th century
- American drama (Comedy)
- Actors Drama

REFERENCE RESOURCES FOR PLAYS

Print Resources

In general, these finding aids are organized by title, author and subject. Explanations for how to use each index are found in the front section of the reference book.

- *Index to Full Length Plays, 1895 to 1925* (Ref. PN1655.I52 1895/1925)
- *Index to Full Length Plays, 1926 to 1944* (Ref. PN1655.I52 1926/1944)
- *Index to Full Length Plays, 1944 to 1964* (Ref. PN1655.I52 1944/1964)
- *Index to One-Act Plays* (Ref. PN1865.L6) Coverage is for plays from 1900-1924.
- *Index to One-Act Plays. Supplement, 1924-1931* (Ref. PN1865.L6 S)
- *Index to One-Act Plays. Second Supplement, 1932-1940* (Ref. PN 1865.L6 S2)
- *Index to One-Act Plays. Third Supplement, 1941-1948* (Ref. PN 1865.L6 S3)
- *Index to One-Act Plays. Fourth Supplement, 1948-1957* (Ref. PN 1865.L6 S4)
- *Index to Plays in Collections; an Author and Title Index to Plays Appearing in Collections Published between 1900 and 1956* (Gen. Coll. Z5781.O89 1957)
- *Index to Plays in Collections; an Author and Title Index to Plays Appearing in Collections Published between 1900 and 1962* (Gen. Coll. Z5781.O89 1964)
- *Index to Plays in Periodicals* (Ref. PN1721.K4) Coverage is for plays through 1976.
- *Index to Plays in Periodicals, 1977-1987* (Ref. PN1721.K4 1990)
- *Ottemiller's Index to Plays in Collections; an author and title index to plays appearing in collections published between 1900 and mid-1970* (Ref. PN1655.O88 1971)
- *Play index, 1949-* (Ref. PN1655.P55)

Monologues

- *An index to monologs and dialogs* (Ref. PN4305.M6 I64)
- *An index to monologs and dialogs. Supplement* (Ref. PN4305.M6 I64 S)
- *Actors guide to monologues* (Ref PN4321 .G887)
- *More actors guide to monologues* (Ref PN4321.G887 M8)

Websites

WWW Virtual Library for Theatre and Drama. (<http://www.vl-theatre.com>)

This web site provides links to sites around the world for theatre and drama professionals, amateurs, academics and students. Click on the link entitled [Electronic text and archives and plays online](#).

Theater Resources (<http://library.cnu.edu/guides/arts.htm#theater>)

An annotated listing of internet resources prepared by the CNU Reference staff.

