Locating Plays, Monologues, and Scenes

Use the resources in this guide to locate the full text of plays in Sterne Library, other libraries, and online (non-commercial websites). Check the last section of this guide for tips on how to find monologue and scene collections in Sterne Library.

Books marked Ref are on the first floor in the Reference Collection. All other books are on the third floor in the circulating collection. You can link to databases and websites directly from this guide. You must have a BlazerID and password to use Sterne Library databases from off-campus.

CHECK STERNE LIBRARY'S LOCAL CATALOG

Most plays are not available in full text online unless they are in the public domain, so search Sterne Library's local catalog first, especially if you are looking for modern and contemporary drama.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search by</th>
<th>Search for (example)</th>
<th>To find</th>
<th>Tip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>streetcar named desire</td>
<td>Play published as a separate book</td>
<td>Omit initial articles (a, an, the) from the beginning of the title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword</td>
<td>+williams +&quot;streetcar named desire&quot;</td>
<td>Play published in an anthology</td>
<td>Combine playwright name with significant words from the title then check results for anthologies or collections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>williams tennessee</td>
<td>Play or collection by a single playwright and published as a book</td>
<td>Enter last name first. In your results, look for play title or the words Works, Plays, Selections</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Use + in a Keyword search to find all of the terms you enter. Use quotation marks in a Keyword search to search for an exact phrase.

CHECK PLAY INDEXES

Play indexes show you which anthologies, collections, and periodicals include a specific play. Search the local catalog for the anthologies and collections that include your play. Search by the periodical title in the Electronic Journals List or in the local catalog if your play is published in a periodical. (Ref indicates the index is in the Reference Collection on the first floor of Sterne Library.)

Start with these play indexes:

Inter-Play: an On-line Index to Plays in Collections, Anthologies, And Periodicals – URL: http://www.lib.pdx.edu/systems/interplay/ - Searchable by author and/or title. Check Sterne Library local catalog for availability and correct call numbers.
**Ottemiller’s Index to Plays in Collections : An Author and Title Index to Plays Appearing in Collections Published since 1900** – **ELECTRONIC BOOK**


Also try these play indexes:


**Index to Twentieth Century Spanish Plays in Collections, Anthologies, and Periodicals** – CALL NUMBER: Ref PQ 6115 .H17 2000

**American Theatre Play Index** – URL: [http://www.tcg.org/publications/at/playindex.cfm](http://www.tcg.org/publications/at/playindex.cfm) - Index to plays published in the journal American Theatre. Check the [Electronic Journals List](http://www.tcg.org/publications/at/playindex.cfm) or [local catalog](http://www.tcg.org/publications/at/playindex.cfm) to locate relevant issues of the journal.

Also, searching [Google Books](http://www.google.com) can help you identify anthologies that include your play even if you cannot view the full text online.

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**CHECK OTHER LIBRARY CATALOGS**

Can't find a play in Sterne Library? Use these online catalogs to search other libraries for your play or anthologies, collections, and periodicals that include your play.

**WorldCat.org** – URL: [http://www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org) – Search the holdings of more than 10,000 libraries worldwide. Available on the web to anyone.

**OCLC WorldCat** – Sterne Library database – Full-featured subscription version of the WorldCat database. Includes link to Sterne Library’s [interlibrary loan form](http://www.worldcat.org).

**Other Academic and Public Libraries in Alabama** – Links to catalogs for area libraries.

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**CHECK STERNE LIBRARY DATABASES**

The following Sterne Library databases include the full text of plays.

**Black Drama – 1850 to Present**
A collection of more than 1,200 plays by 200 playwrights from North America, English-speaking Africa, the Caribbean, and other African Diaspora countries. Texts can be browsed and searched by authors, plays, characters, productions, theaters, theatrical companies, and subjects.

**Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)** (1701-1800)
150,000 digitized English-language and foreign-language titles and editions printed in Great Britain between 1701 and 1800. There is no option to limit searches to plays, so you need to know the author or title of the 18th century play you want.

**Humanities Full Text** (1980 to present)
This index of humanities journals is useful for identifying plays published in periodicals. To search, choose **Drama (Text of Play)** from the box for **Document Type** under the **Limit your results** section. You can then search by keywords for the title, author, or subject of the play. The database includes the full text of plays from selected journals. If full text is not available, choose the **Find It** link to locate the full text through other databases or in the Sterne Library catalog.

**Literature Online (LION) (1280-1915)**
A library of British and American literature, plus biographies, bibliographies, criticism, and reference works. Includes more than 5,000 works of English and American drama from 1280 to 1915. Plays are in the public domain, and the text is from the first published editions (not modern editions). To search, choose **TEXTS** on the **Literature Online** homepage then the **Drama** tab on the next page.

**CHECK FOR PLAYS ON THE WEB**

Most of the full text plays available on the open web are classics in the public domain (unprotected by copyright). Note that these web editions are often plain text html copies, not scans of print editions (exceptions are noted.)

- Includes public domain plays as well as recent plays that have been submitted to the editors of the site by the playwrights.

- Google Books does include the scanned pages of print editions from selected library collections or from participating publishers. Again, most of the titles that allow the "full view" are those in the public domain. For best results, choose the **Advanced Book Search** link to limit your search to **Return books written by** in the **Author** section.

**The Online Books Page** – URL: [http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/](http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/)

**Project Gutenberg** – URL: [http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page](http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page)

**MONOLOGUES AND SCENES**

Use the following resources to find book collections of monologues and scenes in Sterne Library.
To browse online, try a **Subject** search for **monologues** in the Sterne Library local catalog. To browse the shelves, check the PN 2080 call number area on the third floor of the library.
To identify monologues by specific categories, try the **Smith and Kraus Monologue Index** (CALL NUMBER Ref PN 2080 .S6 1999)

Here's a list of selected monologue collections available on the third floor of Sterne Library. Choose the title to get the call number and status of the book.

**60 Seconds to Shine. Volume 1, 221 One-Minute Monologues for Men**
**60 Seconds to Shine. Volume 2, 221 One-Minute Monologues for Women**

**The Best Men’s Stage Monologues of ...** (annual compilation)

**The Best Women’s Stage Monologues of ...** (annual compilation)

**Monologues for Actors of Color : Men**

**Monologues for Actors of Color : Women**

**Monologues for Men by Men**

**Monologues for Women by Women**

**Shakespeare for One : Men : The Complete Monologues and Audition Pieces**

**Shakespeare for One : Women : The Complete Monologues and Audition Pieces**

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**QUESTIONS?**

Contact Heather Martin, Reference Librarian for Arts and Humanities, at hmartin@uab.edu or 934-6364.

Other resources for help:

- [Ask a Librarian](#) / [Schedule a research clinic](#) / [Schedule a citation clinic](#)

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