



# THE LITERARY ENCYCLOPEDIA

Exploring literature, history and culture

**Scope& Aims:** *The Literary Encyclopedia* was founded by Robert Clark, Emory Elliott and Janet Todd in London in 1998 with the aim of providing comprehensive and authoritative support to tertiary-level research and teaching. It is published in English and its scope is world literatures and cultures from the classical to the present.

**Contents:** The publication is currently divided into 10 parts comprising 94 volumes, overseen by 107 editors with established reputations in their fields (see [Table of Contents](#)). Specialist editors commission and review all contributions and welcome offers to contribute from qualified scholars.

**Our year-on-year growth rate is of c. 4%, with 20-40 new articles published every month.** This means we have almost doubled our content since the early 2000s, while we have kept prices deliberately affordable (we only applied a 5% raise during the past decade). We also regularly commission revisions and updates of published articles. As a 'living reference resource', our publication thus represents a very cost-effective investment for HE institutions around the world.

To date we have published over 8000 full-length articles of c. 2500-5000 words, plus some 10,000 short notes on minor works and contextual matters, and have listed more than 27,000 works. In addition, we provide critical bibliographies of recommended reading, complex searching and linking, detailed chronologies for major authors, and virtual bookshelves to assist teachers and students.

Having covered most texts central to current university syllabi, we are currently extending towards works of more recondite interest, whilst filling any remaining gaps in our primary coverage. We are also systematically revising older articles to ensure our publication remains abreast of current requirements.

**Ethics:** *The Literary Encyclopedia* is owned collectively by its writers and editors; it returns to them as royalties all revenue above costs. We aim to increase royalties exponentially as we increase subscriptions so that scholars receive appropriate returns for their personal investment.

*The Literary Encyclopedia* runs a **Scholarship Fund** financed by the donation of royalties by many of its contributors. Currently the fund supports two grants: the [LE Travel Awards](#), a programme of research-travel bursaries to early-

career scholars; and a recently launched [Book Prize](#), which will award two prizes, each worth £2000, one for scholarly contributions to our understanding of literature originally in the English language, the other for scholarly contributions to our understanding of literature originally in another language. For more details, see under [https://www.litencyc.com/php/prizes\\_and\\_grants.php](https://www.litencyc.com/php/prizes_and_grants.php)

**Platform:** We are proud to provide a thoroughly professional, innovative platform that satisfies the highest expectations of our users and enables efficient online

editing and administration. The average time between submission and publication of articles is usually less than a month. Our platform automatically allocates shares in the publication to contributor accounts and generates annual royalty payments, thus enabling economical publishing.

**Funding:** *The Literary Encyclopedia* is funded by educational institutions around the world, ranging from large universities to ambitious colleges. Prestigious subscribers include Columbia University, New York University, Northwestern, Vassar College, Toronto, McGill, Monash, Durham, Manchester University, Trinity College Dublin, Freiburg and Tübingen. (See [Full subscriber list](#)).

### **Testimonials:**

"*The Literary Encyclopedia* is a wonderful resource. What sets it apart is the sheer quality of its articles on an amazing breadth of topics. I regularly advise my students to use it to help them orientate themselves in relation to specific authors or works. In contrast to much online material, it offers them an authoritative overview that is also a gateway to further learning." (Dr Tom Walker, Ussher Assistant Professor in Irish Writing, Trinity College Dublin)

"The constantly expanding collection of articles written by academics from around the world provides students with relevant and reliable information to enhance the quality of their research and enables them to write in confidence knowing that the information they have read is authoritative. The author chronologies provide an additional benefit allowing students to put an author's works into historical context. A fantastic resource!" (Paul Fletcher, Head of Libraries, Dulwich College, London)

"I love the *LE*! I subscribed even though I've finished my studies because it's so interesting and useful. While a student, I found the *LE* an invaluable tool and a legitimate source for research. I knew that my tutors would approve of my use of the site as the articles are written by specialist scholars. The further research available through the recommended reading and web resources is incredibly helpful." (Hayley Cameron, former BA student, University of Dundee)

"*The Literary Encyclopedia* is unparalleled in its combination of range and rigour. It is an incredible achievement and an invaluable resource." (Dr Robert McGill, Associate Professor of English, University of Toronto)