Finding a Play

Finding Collections of Plays

If you don’t need a particular play, try a **subject search** in the library catalog. Some examples:

- Drama- - collected works
- English drama
- American drama- - collected works
- Drama- - collections
- Drama- - 20th century
- American drama—collections
- Childrens plays
- One act plays
- American drama- - african american authors

Finding a Particular Play

Because plays can be published in collections, there are several steps to making sure the library has a copy of a particular play. It is helpful to know the name of the playwright as well as the play’s title. Some of the sources listed below can help you identify the playwright.

**Step 1**
Search the library catalog. If you don’t at first succeed, try more than one search.

**Title search** on the name of the play (but this won’t find collections which could include the play).

*Example* moon for the misbegotten

**Keyword search** using the playwright’s last name and at least some of the significant words from the play’s title.

*Example* oneill and misbegotten

**Author search** Do you find the complete works of the playwright?

*Example* oneill eugene

Didn’t find the play? Don’t give up, we may still have it. The problem is that the catalog doesn’t always, especially for older materials, list individual plays within collections.

**Step 2**

*Inter-Play*  [http://www.lib.pdx.edu/systems/interplay/](http://www.lib.pdx.edu/systems/interplay/)

Online index to plays in collections, anthologies and periodicals created by librarians at Portland State University.
If you find your play in *Inter-Play* you’ll need to go back to our library catalog and see if we have the collection, anthology or periodical that contains the play.

*Inter-Play* is based on the library collection at Portland State University, so if you don’t find your play listed it doesn’t mean your play hasn’t been published.

**Next Steps**

*Ottemiller's index to plays in collections: an author and title index to plays appearing in collections published between 1900 and 1985*  Ready Reference Z5781 .O8 1988

The information will be listed under the playwright’s name. The source name will be abbreviated and the key is in the front of the book.


Multiple volumes. Look up the playwright’s name and underneath it, scan for the title of the play.

*The drama scholars' index to plays and filmscripts*  Reference  Z5781 .S17

Especially helpful if your play is in a language other than English. Also indexes foreign plays in translation.

**Additional Steps**

Haven’t found your play yet? Could your play fit into any of the categories below?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recent Plays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search an index to see if the play has been published in a periodical. Try a keyword search in <em>Expanded Academic</em> (you might even find the fulltext), <em>Reader’s Guide</em>, and <em>Humanities Abstracts</em>.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Older Plays</th>
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Both are indexes (lists) of the full text of plays in *Nineteenth century English and American drama* Microforms, microfiche

*Index to Plays, 1800-1926*  Reference  Z5781 .F57
Children’s Plays

*Index to Children’s Plays in Collections*  Reference  PN1627 .K7 1977 (2nd ed)


*Chicorel theater index to plays for young people in periodicals, anthologies, and collections*  Reference Z5784.C5 C55  1974

One-Act Plays


Plays Published in Periodicals

*Index to plays in periodicals*  Reference  Z5781 .K43 1979


Plays published in periodicals are also included in many general play indexes.

  *Drama Scholars’ Index*  Reference  Z5781 .S17

  *Index to Plays, 1800-1926*  Reference  Z5781 .F57

  *Cumulated Dramatic index, 1909-1949*  Reference  Z5781 .C8

Categories of Playwrights

These are a few examples of “categories” of playwrights and sources for each type.

**American drama- -African American authors- -bibliography**


*Black image on the American stage; a bibliography of plays and musicals, 1770-1970*  Reference Z5784.N4 H35

**American drama- -women authors- -bibliography**

*Drama by women to 1900: a bibliography of American and British writers*  Reference  Z5781 .D37 1992