This is a tutorial from the librarians at Lone Star College—North Harris. The purpose of this tutorial is to teach library users how to use the database Literary Reference Center.

The Literary Reference Center is a database of classic works of literature and literary criticism. To search this database, click on Advanced Search.

Type keywords into the search form. If you’re looking for literary criticism, type in the title of the work and the author’s last name. For example, let’s look for literary criticism on Shirley Jackson’s short story “The Lottery.” Type Jackson into the first search blank and The Lottery into the second.

Many of the items in this database are available in full text, but not all of them are. To limit your search results to full text items only, check off the box marked Full Text.

Much of the literary criticism in this database is from scholarly journals, but not all of it is. To limit your search results to scholarly journals only, check off the box marked Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals.

Now click on Search.

The database has returned 10 items. Scroll down to look at the titles.

The seventh article is entitled ‘The Lottery’ as Misogynist Parable. That looks like it may be relevant. Click on the title to view the article record.

Here is the article record. It tells you who wrote the article, when it was published and in what journal it was published. There’s also an abstract—a summary of the article.

To view the full text of the article, click on PDF Full Text.

Here is the PDF version of the article. If you’d like to keep this article, hover your pointer over the bottom of the page. A menu of options will appear. To save this article as a PDF file, click on the floppy disk icon. To print the article, click on the printer icon. To email the article, click on the envelope icon.