FINDING BOOKS AND ARTICLES AT CCSF

The CCSF Library has just updated its Web site. You may search directly for books by way of the orange search area (“Search CityCat”) or by clicking the “Books and Other Library Materials” link and then opening up CityCat.

Remember to distinguish between, say, finding books about an author’s writing (i.e., literary criticism) and finding the writing itself (e.g., a collection of that author’s short stories).

This keyword search for books of criticism about Flannery O’Connor’s writing yielded 23 hits. Note, however, that the option to “limit search to available items” was not checked. That would have narrowed down the search even more.

Some books are in digital format, but most are on the shelf.

Go to the “Articles and Databases” link in order find periodical and magazine articles, many of which can be emailed and/or downloaded as PDF’s. Gale Powersearch contains twelve databases, including Expanded Academic (Infotrac). The databases are also listed by topic and in alphabetical order. Click the “Literature” topic to jump to the Literature Resource Center and Expanded Academic. Use the alphabetical listing too.
Here’s one way to narrow down a search in the Literature Resource Center for criticism about Flannery O’Connor’s “Good Man is Hard to Find.”

And here’s how to narrow down a “Good Man is Hard to Find” criticism search in Expanded Academic.

Because we took advantage of the drop-down and “limit result” options in Advanced Search, we end up with just 6 full-text hits:

Before limiting the results to “peer-reviewed” articles, we had 65 academic journal hits. Checking “peer-reviewed” gives us 58 academic journal hits:

Gale Powersearch taps into 12 databases.

Adding “misfit” to the cross-referencing brings us down to 22 hits!
The general search for Flannery O’Connor generated several hundred hits, so check full-text.

Adding “good man” to the mix narrows the search down to 10 hits, all full-text and peer-reviewed:

Add peer-reviewed to narrow it down . . .

EBSCO also provides access to literary criticism!

Throw some key terms into the search . . .

For more on the CCSF Library’s resources . . .