



Image taken from *Edgar Allan Poe*  
by George Edward Woodberry, 1885, frontispiece.

While known primarily for contributions to American history and government, Virginia has also produced significant literary figures. Writers as diverse as Edgar Allan Poe, Ellen Glasgow, Rita Dove, and William Styron have enriched American literature with their poetry, fiction, history, biography, and criticism.

The purpose of this guide is to describe the most useful titles in our collection for the study of Virginia writers. Included are checklists, bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, monographs, and directories as well as electronic and Internet websites. A few of the sources are national in scope, but many listed here focus on those writers either born in or residents of Virginia.

### To identify Virginia authors, the following sources are useful:

Anderson, Della. *101 Virginia Women Writers: A Select Bibliography*. Richmond, Va.: Virginia Women's Cultural History Project, 1984. Ref PS266 V8 A54.

Biographical information, lists of works, and references to other sources.

Bjorncrantz, Leslie. *A Checklist of Virginia Writers, Past and Present*. Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Library, 1970. Ref PS266 V8 B6 1970.

Covering those who lived in Virginia as well as those born in Virginia.

*Dictionary of Virginia Biography*. Richmond, Va.: Library of Virginia, 1998–. Ref F225 D54 1998.

As of this writing, this series is up to volume 2, but already contains substantial entries on Virginia writers. Includes bibliographies for further research. Indexes including one by "Occupation" are located on the Library of Virginia website at <<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwedo/pubs/dvb/classind/index.htm>>

Taylor, Welford Dunaway. *Virginia Authors, Past and Present*. Richmond, Va.: Virginia Association of Teachers of English, 1972. Ref PS266 V8 T3.

Entries include biographies, lists of works, and references to other sources.

*Virginians Write Home Often*. [Richmond, Va.: Virginia Commission for the Arts and New Virginia Review, Inc., 1989?]. Ref PS266 V8 V84.

A selective list of writers.

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## Researching Virginia Authors

*Writers in Virginia Directory*. Richmond, Va.: Virginia Commission for the Arts, 2000. Ref PS266 V8 W95. Includes information about readings and workshops. Also available on the Internet:  
<<http://www.arts.state.va.us/wivintro.htm>>.

*Perform an author search in the Online Catalog to access a list of Virginia authors, a list of their works in our collections, and, sometimes, biographical information. For example, enter "Virginia Author G" for authors whose surnames begin with that letter. To access a list of the writings of an author, select the line number for the author's name. Or, select an author by typing in the appropriate line number, then the letter "a" (for example, "1 a") to access a record that may include biographical information on that writer.*

**In addition, the following sources include addresses for contacting current writers as well as biographical information:**

*Contemporary Authors*. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Company, 1962– . Main Z1224 C59

*Contemporary Authors New Revision*. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Company, 1981– . Ref Z1224 C591:  
The cumulative indexes to both of these series are located in Ref Z1224 C59...INDEX.

*Contemporary Popular Writers*. Detroit, Mich.: St. James Press, 1997. Ref PR478 P66 C66 1997.

*Contemporary Southern Writers*. Detroit, Mich.: St. James Press, 1999. Ref PS261 C569 1999.

*Writers Directory*. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Company, 1973– . Ref Z1224 W9.  
A who's who with biographical information and listings of publications.

**To locate literary criticism on notable Virginia writers, the following sources are useful:**

*American Writers before 1800: A Biographical and Critical Dictionary*. 3 vols. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1983. Ref PS185 A4, volumes 1–3.

"Appendix C: Principal Place(s) of Residence" contains an extensive and varied list of writers from Virginia.

*Contemporary Fiction Writers of the South: A Bio-bibliographical Sourcebook*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1993. Ref PS261 C565 1993.

Includes writers from Virginia.

*Fifty Southern Writers after 1900: A Bio-bibliographical Sourcebook*. New York: Greenwood Press, 1987.  
Ref PS261 F54 1987.

Includes major figures such as Ellen Glasgow and William Styron.

*Fifty Southern Writers before 1900: A Bio-bibliographical Sourcebook*. New York: Greenwood Press, 1987.  
Ref PS261 F543 1987.

Includes lesser-known figures as well as the more familiar such as Thomas Jefferson and Edgar Allan Poe.

Snodgrass, Mary Ellen. *Encyclopedia of Southern Literature*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 1997.  
Ref PS261 S515 1997.

*Southern Writers: A Biographical Dictionary*. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 1979.  
Ref PS261 S53.

Includes many early and obscure writers.

Wages, Jack D. *Seventy-four Writers of the Colonial South*. Boston, Mass.: G. K. Hall, 1979. Main Z1251 S7 W34.  
Covers people who are not primarily literary figures such as James Blair and John Smith.

*Perform a subject search (last name, first name—for example, Cabell, James Branch) in the online catalog to access published biographical and critical materials about that author. For personal papers, perform both subject and author searches for the name of a specific author in the Archives and Manuscript catalog.*

### The following titles provide historical background on Virginia literary tradition as well as information on specific Virginia writers:

Ames, Susie M. *Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic in Virginia 1607–1699*. Williamsburg, Va.: Virginia 350th Anniversary Celebration Corporation, 1957. Ref F229 V795 No. 15.

Includes discussion of the different genres prevalent in Colonial Virginia, such as letter-writing.

*Companion to Southern Literature: Themes, Genres, Places, People, Movements, and Motifs*. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 2002. Ref PS261 C55 2002.

Includes a background article on the literature of Virginia.

Davis, Richard Beale. *Intellectual Life in Jefferson's Virginia, 1790–1830*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, [1964]. F230 D3;

———. *Intellectual Life in the Colonial South, 1585–1763*. Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press, 1978. F212 D23, vols. 1–3;

———. *Literature and Society in Early Virginia 1608–1840*. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, [1973]. PS266 V8 D3.

A leading scholar of early Southern literature, Richard Beale Davis argued for a greater appreciation of the richness and significance of the South in the development of the intellectual life of the nation. *Intellectual Life in the Colonial South* won the National Book Award for history and includes coverage of Virginia culture.

*Essays in Early Virginia Literature Honoring Richard Beale Davis*. New York: B. Franklin, 1977. PS266 V8 E8.  
Collection of essays on early writers such as John Smith, William Byrd, Thomas Jefferson, and St. George Tucker.

*The History of Southern Literature*. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 1985.  
Ref PS261 H34 1985.

A history comprised of essays by different writers and covering major writers and topics.

Jones, Howard Mumford. *The Literature of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century*. 2nd ed. Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia, 1968. PS266 V8 J6 1968.

Rubin, Louis D., Jr. *A Bibliographical Guide to the Study of Southern Literature*. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 1969. Main Z1225 R8.

Includes essays and bibliographies on individual writers.

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## *Researching Virginia Authors*

Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Committee on Bibliography. *Southern Literature, 1968–1975: A Checklist of Scholarship*. Boston, Mass.: G.K. Hall, 1978. Main Z1225 S63.  
Annotated bibliography of studies on individual writers.

### **If the biographical sources listed above do not include information on the location of collections of authors' papers, try the following sources:**

Ash, Lee. *Subject Collections*. New Providence, N.J.: R. R. Bowker, 1993. Ref Z688 A2 A8 1993.  
Organized by topic and name.

Library of Congress. *National Union Catalog of Manuscripts*. Washington D.C.: Library of Congress, 1959/61–1993. West Ref LC 9.8: [yr].  
Identifies and describes collections available at repositories throughout the country. There is an *Index to Personal Names* (West Ref Z6620 U5 I53 1988) as well as an *Index to Subjects and Corporate Names* (West Ref Z6620 U5 N3 Suppl.). Also available on the Internet at <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc>.

Robbins, John Albert. *American Literary Manuscripts: A Checklist of Holdings in Academic, Historical, and Public Libraries, Museums, and Authors' Homes in the United States*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1977. Ref Z6620 U5 M65 1977.  
A concise description of location and holdings.

### **Literary Guidebooks and Maps:**

Nixon, Julia H. *A Guide to Virginia's Literary Heritage*. Richmond, Va.: Virginia Educational Media Association, 1991. Ref PS144 V8 N5 1991.

Robinson, Ella. *A Guide to Literary Sites of the South*. Northport, Ala.: Vision Press, 1998. Ref PS144 S67 R63 1998.

Hopkins, Martha. *Language of the Land: The Library of Congress Book of Literary Maps*. Washington D.C.: Library of Congress, 1999. LC 5.2: L 26/2.

Pages 155–156 contain reproductions of maps for Virginia. The 1957 map has been reproduced on the end papers of *Virginia Authors Past and Present* (see above entry) while *20th Century Virginia Authors* (Ref PS266 V8 V82 1994) is a guide to the 1994 map.

### **To identify additional resources, check the General Catalog under these subject headings:**

*American Literature—Southern States*

*American Literature—Virginia*

*Authors, American—Southern States*

*Authors, American—Virginia*



To locate articles about Virginia authors, the following sources are available in the East Reading Room and/or on the Web site of the Library of Virginia:

*Freeman File Microform*. Richmond, Virginia: SEC Computer Company, [1989]. East and West Reference Desks. An index for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and *Richmond News-Leader*, covering approximately the years from the early 1920s to 1985.

*Humanities Index* (previously *Social Sciences and Humanities Index*). New York: H. W. Wilson Company, 1965/66–2002. Main AI3 H9 (AI3 R49)  
Indexing by subject and author to periodical articles dealing with literature.

*Journal Storage, the Scholarly Journal Archive*. [Subscription Electronic Database]. (2000–2002). East and West Reading Rooms.  
Electronic index which provides access to full-text articles. From the Search Page, choose the category of “Language and Literature” to perform a search for articles on significant Virginia authors.

*Magazine Index*. Available on the website of the Library of Virginia at <http://lvaimage.lib.va.us/collections/MZ.html>.  
Compiled by the staff of the Library of Virginia, this index includes citations to articles about writers such as Edgar Allan Poe, James Branch Cabell, and Ellen Glasgow.

*Newspaper Index*. Index to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and *Richmond News-Leader* from the 1940s to 1985. Available on the website of the Library of Virginia at <http://lvaimage.lib.va.us/collections/NI.html>. Check under the subject headings “Authors, American—Virginia” and “Biography—(Last name of author)”.

**In addition to reference books and monographs, there are periodicals that specialize in the work of Virginia writers and that often include notes on their contributors.**

*Edgar Allan Poe Review* Fogelsville, Pa.: Penn State Berks-Lehigh Valley College, 2000– . PS2631 P782

*Ellen Glasgow Newsletter*. Ashland, Va.: Ellen Glasgow Society, 1974– . PS3513 L34 Z62

*New Virginia Review*. Norfolk, Va.: New Virginia Review, 1978–1993. PS558 V5 N42

64. Richmond, Va.: Shine Publications, 2000–2002. NX510 V8 A14  
No longer in print, this magazine included information about poets as well as their poetry.

*Richmond Quarterly* and *Richmond Literature and History Quarterly*. Richmond, Va.: Richmond Literature and History Quarterly, 1980– . F233.3 R648  
No longer in print. Included poetry and stories as well as articles about writers.

*Sherwood Anderson Review* (previously *The Winesburg Eagle*). Blacksburg, Va.: Dept. of English, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1975– . PS3501 N4 Z97

*Virginia Adversaria*. Poquoson, Va.: Empire Publishing, 2000– . PS558 V5 V57  
Featuring Virginia writers and artists.

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## *Researching Virginia Authors*

There are a number of literary magazines published by Virginia colleges and universities. These publications are not confined to Virginia writers, but often include them.

*Blackwater Review*. Virginia Beach, Va.: Tidewater Community College, 1995–1999. PS508 C6 B63

*Meridian*. Charlottesville, Va.: Meridian (University of Virginia), 1998– . PS501 M47.

*Hampden-Sydney Poetry Review*. Hampden-Sydney, Va.: Hampden-Sydney College, 1977– . PN1010 H21

*Hollins Critic*. Hollins, Va.: Hollins University, 1965– . PS1 H7

*Shenandoah*. Lexington, Va.: Shenandoah (Washington and Lee University), 1950– . LH1 W3 S5  
Starting with volume 11 (1959/60), each volume has a name index.

*Virginia Writing*. Farmville, Va.: Longwood College, 1986– . PS558 V5 V8  
Features the writings of Virginia high school students and teachers.

*William and Mary Review*. Williamsburg, Va.: (College of William and Mary), 1962– . LH1 W64 W7

### The following electronic sources are available in the Library Reading Rooms:

*Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Available through the *Find It Virginia* program at public libraries throughout the state. An index to biographical and critical material on contemporary writers, searchable in a variety of ways such as title, author, and subject.

*Newsbank Newsfile*. Index to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* as well as newspapers from Newport News, Norfolk, Roanoke, and Washington, D.C.

In addition to print and electronic sources, the Library of Virginia has a Picture Collection that includes photographs, artwork, slides, and transparencies. The staff will be happy to check for portraits of specific authors. Contact the Special Collections Branch at 804/692-3703.

### Useful Web sites:

*American Authors*: <<http://www.gonzaga.edu/faculty/campbell/>>.

Created by Donna M. Campbell, Ph. D., English Department, Gonzaga University. At the pull-down menu, click on “Authors” to find links on the Internet for Edgar Allan Poe and John Smith.

*Electronic Text Center Collections*: <<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/uvaonline.html>>. Maintained by the University of Virginia Library. Click on “English Language”, then on “Online Holdings” for writings by Thomas Jefferson, Edgar Allan Poe, Booker T. Washington, Ellen Glasgow, Mary Johnston and others.

*Gale Literary Index*: <<http://www.galenet.com/servlet/LitIndex>>.

From Gale Group which publishes many literary reference sources such as the *Literary Criticism Series* and the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, this is a master index to these and other reference books from the Gale Group as well as titles from Charles Scribner’s Sons, St. James Press, and Twayne Publishers.

*Library of Southern Literature:* <<http://docsouth.dsi.internet2.edu/southlit/southlitmain.html>>.

Created by Robert Bain of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, this site provides access to pre-1920 texts of the works of Virginia writers such as Edgar Allan Poe and Ellen Glasgow. In addition to the actual text of the work, images of the title pages, covers, and illustrations are included as well as biographies of the authors.

*National Poetry Map—The Academy of American Poets—Virginia:*

<<http://www.poets.org/map/state.cfm?45442B6630504250041505>>. Accessible through the site for the Academy of American Poets, this webpage offers information and/or links to Virginia poets, literary organizations and events, and literary journals.

*Online Literary Criticism Collection:* <<http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/>>.

Part of the Internet Public Library website developed by the University of Michigan's School of Information and Library Studies, this site includes links to biographical and critical materials on the Internet. Among the writers represented are James Branch Cabell, Rita Dove, and Edgar Allen Poe.

*Virginia Authors & Poets:* <[http://wythegrayson.lib.va.us/Va\\_Authors1.htm](http://wythegrayson.lib.va.us/Va_Authors1.htm)>. Maintained by the Wythe-Grayson Regional Library, this site provides links to websites for contemporary authors (including Willa Cather).

*Virginia Cavalcade Searchable Table of Contents:*

<<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwedo/pubs/cavalcade/volumes/index.htm>>.

*Virginia Cavalcade* was a magazine of Virginia history and culture published by the Library of Virginia. It includes articles on Virginia writers, particularly early ones. Some later writers are covered as well, such as Ellen Glasgow and William Styron.

Finally, the Virginia Authors Room, located on the second floor of the library, contains a selection of books by writers who are either native-born Virginians or who live in Virginia. The holdings are listed in the Online Library Catalog and are indicated on the copies screen by the phrase "Va. Authors Room."

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