Shakespearean Criticism (SC)

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*Shakespearean Criticism* covers a wide variety of information related to Shakespeare’s drama and poetry, including historical overviews, criticisms on particular works, and critical approaches to themes within Shakespeare’s works.

**Content and organization:**

*SC* is unique in comparison to other Gale (Reference) literature series because it focuses solely on works of one author – William Shakespeare. In addition, the content and organization of *SC* is much more detailed and comprehensive. The focus and approach of a particular volume of *SC* is organized like this:

- **Volumes 1 through 10:** Historical overview and critical response to selected Shakespearean works
- **Volumes 11 through 26:** Historical information and criticism on various productions and adaptations of Shakespeare plays
- **Volumes 27 through 56:** Criticism after 1960, a topic or thematic approach is taken with each volume (ex. politics and power is one entry in vol. 30)
- **Volumes 57 – current:** General criticism since 1990 and other criticism not featured in previous volumes

**Indexes:**

*SC*’s print indexes are the most useful resource for locating a wide range of topics on Shakespeare’s plays. Although the (free, online) *Literary Index* can be consulted to find information on more general Shakespeare-related topics, these cumulative indexes* are the best resource for locating more focused and detailed information. These indexes are repeated, and updated, at the back of all recent volumes of *SC*

- **Character Index:** includes those characters discussed in the criticism, play, or non-dramatic poem
- **Topic Index:** includes the main topics in the “criticism and stage history of each work.”
- **Topic Index by Play:** includes main topics in the “criticism and stage history of each work arranged by play.”

*Special Note:*

Occasionally, plays and topics appearing in the most recent volume of *SC* will not appear in the online version of the *Literary Index*. For example, although there is an entry on *The Taming of the Shrew* in vol. 64, it is not listed in the *Literary Index*.