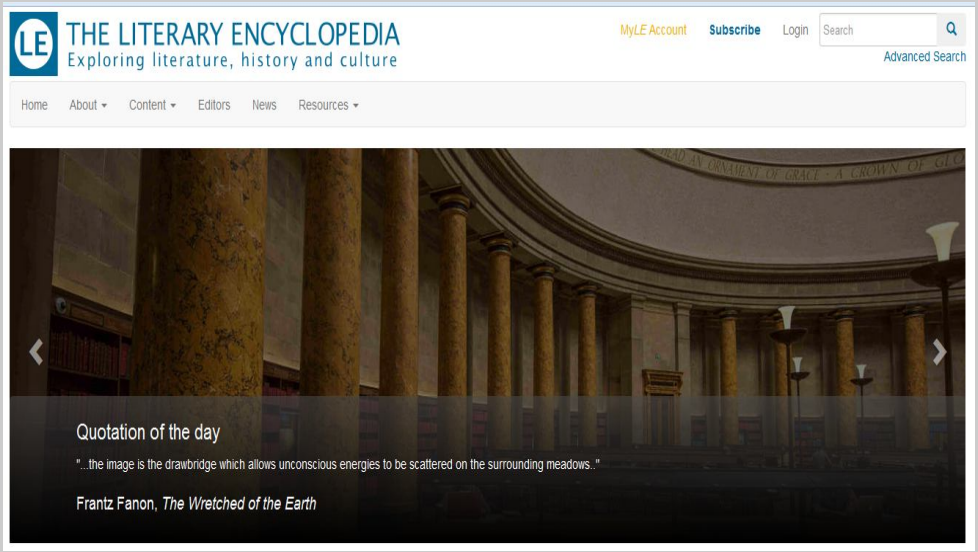
Name of the Tool	**The Literary Encyclopedia**
Home Page	
Logo	
URL	https://www.litencyc.com/
Subject	Literature—Encyclopedias
Accessibility	On subscription
Language	English
Publisher	The Literary Dictionary Company Ltd.
Brief History	*The Literary Encyclopedia* was founded in 1998 with the aim of providing a reliable scholarly online reference work for English-language readers, primarily in the higher education humanities. It was developed as a not-for-profit project aimed to ensure that those who contribute to it are properly rewarded for the time and knowledge they invest.

Scope and Coverage

The encyclopedia seeks to cover all of world literature and endeavor to commission and publishes articles on the widest variety of quality writing that has been produced around the world. It offers excellent coverage of English, American, German, Russian, Italian, French and Classical literatures, as well as substantial and increasing coverage of Hispanic, Japanese, Canadian, East European and various postcolonial literatures.

Main articles in The Literary Encyclopedia are divided into three databases, People, Works and Context.

- **People** – includes basic data on over 7316 people (3187 with full profiles), mainly writers, but also philosophers, scientists, artists, historical figures and others of note. (See list of completed profiles).
- **Works** – includes over 31748 works (3679 completed), mainly literary, but also philosophical and scientific, which are indexed by date, genre and country. A large part of these are listed for bibliographical purposes, while others will be profiled as the Encyclopedia expands and develops. One can browse a list of completed profiles.
- **Context** – includes four types of records: short notes of 50 to 500 words - **historical context notes** (comprising major acts of parliament, wars, battles, epidemic diseases scientific and technological inventions, etc.) and **literary/ cultural context notes**; and *major essays* of up to 6000 words - **historical context essays** and **literary/ cultural context essays**. One can browse a list of these HERE, choosing the appropriate type of entry he or she wishes to see listed.

So far the encyclopedia has published about 7598 completed articles, with a total of about 15.85 million words and are currently adding around 20-40 articles to the encyclopedia every month.

Kind of Information

The Literary Encyclopedia publishes biographies of major and minor writers; scholarly descriptions of all interesting texts written by these authors, including those often neglected; and a variety of descriptive and critical essays on literary, cultural and historical matters, which provide a finer understanding of the social contexts in which this writing was produced.

The Literary Encyclopedia provides the following kinds of information:

- About People
  - ✓ Biographical profiles
  - ✓ Lifelines – day-by-day chronologies of an author's life
- About Works
  - ✓ Profiles – descriptive-critical analyses
  - ✓ Primary bibliography of all major works by all writers listed

	(List of works) ➢ About Literary Context ✓ Essays on genres, concepts, movements, theories; comparative and reception essays ✓ Short notes on genres, concepts, issues ➢ About Political and Cultural Context ✓ Essays on important historical events, movements and issues ✓ Short notes on important events, movements and issues ➢ Secondary Bibliography ✓ Annotated or un-annotated recommended critical reading for any of the above (recommended readings)
Special Features	Its online format allows for rapid publication and frequent updating of articles; its integrated digital resources (author life-chronologies, customizable timelines, thematic or course-oriented bookshelves, related article clusters, critical bibliographies) respond dynamically to teaching and learning demands. All encyclopedia records are accompanied by an information panel to the left, which stores the relevant metadata of the article (dates, domains, activities, genres, places, cultural identities) and offers cross-linking, bibliographic and contextual options.
Arrangement Pattern	All the resources are divided into people, works, contexts and the articles can be sorted by head word of the title or by date of publication.
Remarks	The Literary Encyclopedia is a constantly evolving and updating repository of authoritative reference work about literary and cultural history. All our articles are solicited by invitation from specialist scholars in higher education institutions all over the world, refereed and approved by subject editors in our Editorial Board. The **LE** is thus uniquely selective, reliable and authoritative. The Literary Encyclopedia is becoming an increasingly useful reference work and research tool for students and scholars. The *LE*, unlike other online resources is compiled and overseen by experts in the field. It provides students with a reliable standard that can't be corrupted in the way that other online sites can easily be. The Literary Encyclopedia is unparalleled in its combination of range and rigour. It is an incredible achievement and an invaluable resource.

Comparable Tools	➢ The Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature (http://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780195169218.001.0001/acref-9780195169218) ➢ Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Literature (http://www.literatureencyclopedia.com/public/) ➢ Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature (http://literature.oxfordre.com/)
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