



Locating Short Stories

About This Guide

This guide explains how to locate an individual short story by using (1) the Library Catalog, (2) a print reference source that indexes individual stories, and (3) an online database that includes over 150,000 full-text stories.

Using the Library Catalog to Locate Short Stories

- Begin at the Library Home Page (www.chapman.edu/library)
- Locate the Library Catalog within the Start Your Search area of the page.
- Perform a Keyword search by typing the title of the short story with quotes around the title. Also type the author's full name or last name in the search box, as shown below:


Start Your Search

Library catalog (books, e-books, videos, and more)

KEYWORD

[Advanced Search](#) [Renew Items](#)
[Reserves by Instructor](#) [Reserves by Course](#)

- If you receive results for your search, click on the link to see the full catalog record. Your search terms will appear in red, as show below:

Title	The Best American short stories of the eighties / selected and with an introduction by Shannon Ravenel.		
Publisher	Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1990.		
LOCATION	CALL #	STATUS	
2nd FL Humanities Library Books	PS648 .S5 B455 1990	AVAILABLE	
Collation	xxvii, 393 p. ; 22 cm.		
Contents	Old forest / Peter Taylor -- Emerald / Donald Barthelme -- Shawl / Cynthia Ozick -- A working day / Robert Coover -- Cathedral / Raymond Carver -- Exchange value / Charles Johnson -- Deaths of distant friends / John Updike -- Sur: a summary report of the Yelcho Expedition to the Antarctic, 1909-10 / Ursula K. Le Guin -- Nairobi / Joyce Carol Oates -- In the red room / Paul Bowles -- Sarah Cole: a type of love story / Russell Banks -- Fellow-creatures / Wright Morris -- Gryphon / Charles Baxter -- Health / Joy Williams -- Way we live now / Susan Sortag -- Things they carried / Tim O'Brien -- Dédé / Mavis Gallant -- Helping / Robert Stone -- Management of grief / Bharati Mukherjee -- Meneseitung / Alice Munro.		

NOTE: Instead of the above search, you can also perform an **AUTHOR** search in the Library Catalog by typing the author's name in the **last name** followed by **first name** format, ie. Carver Raymond or Taylor Peter or Walker Alice. You would then scroll through any results to find a title that may contain the short story.

This guide is one in a series of "How To" Reference and Instruction Guides created by librarians at the Leatherby Libraries. View the series online at www.chapman.edu/library/reference/guides

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Date created: August 10, 2009

Using a Print Reference Source to Locate a Short Story

- If you can't find your short story by searching the Library Catalog, use a volume of the **Short Story Index** to locate your story in an anthology (collection) of stories. This item is available in the First Floor Reference Collection under Call Number **PN 6014 .C6**.
- The Library carries the **Short Story Index** from 1974 to the present. A story may be indexed in one volume and not the next, so look through several volumes, depending upon the publishing date of the story.
- Look up the last name of the author. The titles of the short stories are listed below the author entries, followed by the name of the anthology or anthologies that carry the particular story. Jot down the title of any anthology you are interested in and use the Library Catalog to perform a **Title Search** to see if the anthology is available at the Leatherby Libraries.

Using an Online Database to Locate the Full-Text of a Short Story

- Begin at the Library Home Page (www.chapman.edu/library)
- Locate the Start Your Search area in the center of the page.
- Go to the Databases section near the bottom of the page, and use the drop-down menu to search for **Databases by Title**. Scroll down the list until you find **LitFinder**.
- Click **Connect** and then the **Proceed** button to enter LitFinder.
- From within the database, choose **Works Search** on the top toolbar.
- In the **Works Search** search box, type in the title of the story with quotes around it, i.e. "At the Seminary" and type the author's name in the **Author** search box.
- If you receive results, you may have to select the third tab that reads "**Primary Sources and Literary Works**."
- If available, click on the full-text link to access the story.

NOTE: LitFinder includes the full-text of *many* short stories, however, not every short story will be located here.

Additional Research Help

For additional help, please see the Reference Desk on the first floor of the Library. You may also contact the reference desk via e-mail at libweb@chapman.edu or phone at (714) 532-7714.