Contemporary American Female Poets

**Introduction:** The Contemporary American Female Poets site is to act as the first step in research on female poets born in the United State of America. This pathfinder is only meant as a quick guide to assist with research in this specific subject area. If at any time in your research process you come across issues, please contact the reference desk.

**Audience:** The Contemporary American Female Poets pathfinder is meant to assist undergraduate students of Xavier University with research and to help those interested in discovering new poets.

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**Subject Headings and Keywords:**

*Subject Headings and Keywords* are two of the search options made available to researchers using online library catalogs. Below you will find a list of subject and keyword searches available in the Xavier University Library and OhioLINK.

- American poetry -- Women authors -- History and criticism
- Women and literature -- United States -- History -- 20th century
- Feminist poetry -- American
- American poetry - Women authors
- American female poets
- Women poets, American -- 20th century -- Biography
- Women poets
Databases:

The following databases are Xavier University Library databases and can only be accessed using your AllCard information.

Poetry Group Collection
The Poetry Group Collection database searches through six different collections for full text collections of a poet's work. Using the advanced search tab, one is easily able to access available full text poetry collections by a poet of your choice.

American and English Literature Collection
The American and English Literature Collection database is very similar to the Poetry Group Collection databases but searches through sixteen different collections.

Literary Reference Center
This database contains many full text entries from encyclopedias, reference sources, and literary journals. Literary Reference Center is a great database for research on criticism and reviews on many poets.

The following databases are Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County databases and can only be accessed using your library card information.

Literature Resource Center
This is a great database where one is able to search by 'person - by or about,' 'name of work,' and 'keywords.' This database is perfect in finding a lot of different information on one poet.

Literature Criticism Online
A great database for criticism on poets. This database allows the researcher to search based on author and use a specific search on 'poetry criticism.'

Biography Reference Bank
This website allows for one to search for a single poet's biographical information. Alongside the biography of the poet, the database offers a list of citations used, criticisms available, and a bibliography of the poet.

Journals:

Poetry - an Academic journal published by the Modern Poetry Association. Poetry is a monthly publication of contemporary poems.
Iowa Review - Academic journal published quarterly by the University of Iowa. All issues include a large selection of contemporary poetry alongside fiction and non-fiction.

Mezzo Cammin - a web journal focused on formal poetry by contemporary female poets. A new issue is created twice a year and has been in existence since 2006. The journal contains poems and criticisms.

Websites:

Famouspoetsandpoems.com - a great, free website with an extensive list of contemporary female poets from the United States. Each poet has a small biography, a few quotes, and some poems attached to their name.

American Women Poets of the 20th Century - a brief bibliography of women poets created by the Harris County Public Library. Using the links attached to the poets will present a list of similar poets and titles.

The Academy of American Poets - an extensive website filled with a variety of poets. While this site requires the searcher to know the names of the female poet, it is filled with a great selection of poems by any poet searched.

Annotation Guides:

Most literature courses at Xavier University will require papers be written in MLA format. For information on how to set up and cite an MLA research paper, please see one of the following two citation guide sites:

Purdue Owl

Xavier University Citation Guide

On the off chance this assignment is not for a literature course or your professor prefer you use APA, please see one of the following citation style guides:

Purdue Owl

Xavier University Citation Guide

Xavier University APA page set-up Guide
Suggested Authors:

Below is a list of some well known contemporary American female poets. The list is created as a starting point for those who are unfamiliar with any poets of this period.

Brenda Shaughnessy

Dorianne Laux

Kim Addonizio

Nikki Giovanni
Rita Dove

Louise Gluck

C.D. Wright

Adrienne Rich
Sharon Olds

Local Groups:

Women Writing for (a) Change - a Cincinnati based group of female writers with a focus on personal history and poetry. Women Writing for (a) Change offers many classes and writing instruction courses throughout the year. Some of the instructors are locally published poets.

Women's Writing Center - Dawn Diebold, one of the instructors of Women Writing for (a) Change, has her own website containing a list of local courses she is teaching on the topic of writing and poetry. Dawn is currently seeking her Masters of Arts in Women’s Transformative Writing Process from Antioch University.

FAQs:

Q: What is considered contemporary poetry?

A: Contemporary poetry refers to any poetry written since the 1960s. While the exact year may vary slightly between certain sources, the 60s are widely regarded as a starting point for contemporary poetry.

Q: Are there many anthologies specifically focused on contemporary American female poets?

A: It is difficult to find anthologies based solely on American poets, but there are a handful of anthologies focused on contemporary female poets. Here is a brief list of such anthologies:

Rising Tides: 20th Century American Women Poets

Innovative Women Poets: An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry and Interviews

Contemporary American Women Poets: an A to Z guide
The permanent link for the Contemporary American Female poets pathfinder is http://contemporaryfemalepoets.wordpress.com/.

PDF formatted printable version of the Contemporary American Female Poets: ContemporaryAmericanFemalePoets.

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