How to Find Plays
(also Scenes or Monologues)

Some plays are separately published, but many are included in collections, either of the works of one playwright or anthologies of the works of various playwrights. The challenge is often to find those plays published in anthologies.

1. Library catalog

a. Easiest way to find plays is to do a **Boolean Keyword** search. This will find plays published as separate books and play titles in the content notes for play collections and anthologies. Search for significant word(s) in the play's title, or title words plus the playwright's name.

    Example: moon and misbegotten (2 title keywords)
              Williams and menagerie (author and title keywords)

b. Plays published as book (separately published): Do a **Title** search for play title.

c. Plays published as part of playwright's collected works: and Click on author tab and input the playwright's name and look through the entries for books that look like anthologies of the works. OR, sometimes you can do a **Boolean Keyword** search for the playwright's name plus the keywords "works" or "collected"
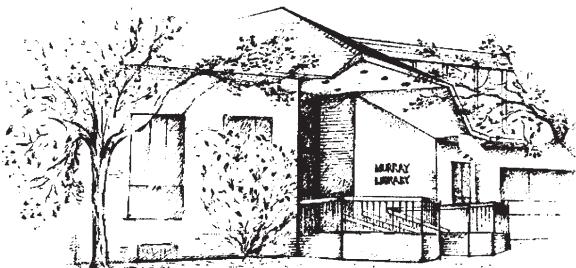
    Example: Henley and collected

2. North American Theatre Online: Database includes the full text of over 2000 American plays, including those also appearing in the Asian American Drama, Black Drama, Latino Drama, and North American Women's Drama databases.

Linked from the Library's home page under "Find...Articles/Databases/Subjects" in the Alphabetical list under "North American Theatre Online." Click on "Plays" (under Search), then enter the Play Title in the appropriate box and change the drop-down menu below ("Full-Text available") to "Yes." Click Search button.

3. Evans Early American Imprints (for plays *printed* in America, 1639-1819). Linked from the Library's home page under "Find...Articles/Databases/Subjects" in the alphabetical list under "Early American Imprints."

4. Indexes:
In each of these, once you've found the reference to the play and the anthology (-ies) it appears in, search our Library's catalog for that anthology (to see if we have it).

      a. Inter-play: An On-Line Index to Plays in Collections, Anthologies, and Periodicals
          (http://www.lib.pdx.edu/systems/interplay/). Linked from the Library's home page under
          "Find...Articles/Databases/Subjects"–>Theatre –> Selected Resources –> General.

      b. Play Index (Ref. PN 1655 .P53x). The *standard source* for locating plays in collections. Indexes plays
          in collections, including English translations of foreign plays. Covers plays published between
          1949-1997.
          Note: Since it is chronological, it is best to know when the play first appeared.

      c. Index to Plays in Collections by Ottemiller (REF PN 1655 .O87 1988). Standard source. Author
          and Title index to plays in collections published 1900-1985.

5. WorldCat. If our Library does not have the play, search WorldCat either for the play title or for one of the anthologies in which it appears. (Use the same strategies as you did in searching the Library's catalog.) Place an Interlibrary Loan request for the item from the WorldCat record ("Interlibrary Loan via ILLiad"). The WorldCat link is available on the Library home page under "Quicklinks" (at right).

6. Finding Scenes and Monologues (e.g., for auditions). In the Library catalog, there are several ways to search.
      a. Do a **Subject** search for Monologues.
      b. If you wish to specify in some way, do a **Boolean keyword** search.
          Example: women and monologues