

# How do I find reference sources using the Library Catalog?

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The Library Catalog contains records for both print and online reference sources. Below are some suggestions which will help you locate reference materials when you search the Library Catalog.

## Tips for Finding Specific Types of Reference Sources

Inside are some suggestions for locating specific types of reference sources based on Library of Congress Subject Headings.

- Almanacs and Factbooks
- Atlases and Gazetteers
- Biographical Sources
- Book Reviews
- Catalogs
- Citation Manuals
- Dictionaries (English)
- Dictionaries (Non-English)
- Dictionaries (Subject Specific)
- Directories
- Encyclopedias
- Grammar and Usage
- Quotations
- Thesauri

## Almanac & Factbooks

Conduct a "Begins With" Subject search in the Library Catalog using the term: **Almanacs**. For **U.S. almanacs**, you can enter the following Library of Congress Subject Headings as a subject "Begins With" search:

- *Almanacs, American*
- *Almanacs American Illinois* (You can also use other U.S. states).

You can also locate **almanacs from other countries** in a similar way. For example:

- *Almanacs French*
- *Almanacs Cuban*

If you prefer keyword searching, use the "Advance Keyword" option in the Library Catalog, combining the subject keyword **Almanacs** with any other relevant keyword searches that may narrow your search.

## Atlases & Gazetteers

### Atlases

When you are looking for atlases, we recommend using the "Advanced Keyword" search feature in the Library Catalog. This search will allow you to combine the subject keyword **atlases** with other keyword searches. Enter as much information as you can about the atlas you are looking for. Below are some examples of how to narrow your search:

- *Atlases* (Subject) AND *world* (Title)
- *Atlases* (Subject) AND *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (Title)
- *Atlases* (Subject) AND *historic\** (Title) AND *world* (Title)

When looking for **atlases from other countries**, it can be helpful to use a "Begins With" subject search in the Library Catalog. Enter your subject headings as demonstrated by the following examples:

- *Atlases, British*
- *Atlases, Chinese*
- *Atlases, Egyptian*

Please be aware that some atlases may be cataloged using the subject heading "Maps". If you do not find what you need, Ask a Librarian for assistance. In addition, we recommend that you review the Library's Research Guide to the Map Collection.

### Gazetteers

Conduct a "Begins With" subject search to locate gazetteers. In most cases, the Library of Congress Subject Heading first lists the country, and then includes a subheading for **gazetteers**. For example:

- *Great Britain – Gazetteers.*
- *India – Gazetteers.*
- *United States – Gazetteers.*

You may also want to search using the subject heading: **Geography -- Dictionaries**. You can also expand this to specific subheadings, as shown in the following examples.

- *Geography – Dictionaries – Persian.*
- *Geography – Dictionaries – Slovak.*

## Biographical Sources

For best results, you should use the "Advanced Keyword" search feature in the Library Catalog. Enter the keywords **Biography Dictionaries** as a subject search, combining it with other keyword searches to find specific types of biographies. For example:

- *Economists* (Subject) AND *Biography Dictionaries* (Subject)
- *Lawyers* (Subject) AND *United States* (Subject) AND *Biography Dictionaries* (Subject)

You can also use the subject keyword *Biography* for additional biographical sources. However, this may produce full-length biographies rather than reference works. In this instance, you may want to **limit to a specific reading room or reference collection**.

## Catalogs

Use the "Advanced Keyword" option in the Library Catalog, entering the term **catalogs** as a subject search. You can then combine this term with other keyword searches--such as the museum/collection/gallery name, the artist, etc. Below are a few examples:

- *Catalogs* (Subject) AND *Art* (Subject) AND *London* (Anywhere)
- *Catalogs* (Subject) AND *Manuscripts* (Subject) AND *California* (Anywhere)

For **Catalogs Raisonnés**, use the keywords *catalogues raisonnés* as a subject and then enter the artist's name as a subject keyword search.

- *Catalogues raisonnés* (Subject) AND *Picasso* (Subject)
- *Catalogues raisonnés* (Subject) AND *Titian* (Subject)

For **Library Catalogs** in print, enter the name of the library and **Catalogs**. For example:

- *Catalogs* (Subject) AND *John Crerar Library* (Subject)
- *Catalogs* (Subject) AND *Bodleian Library* (Subject)

For **Online Library Catalogs**, use the Library's Library Catalogs web page.

## Dictionaries (English Language)

The Library's collections of English language dictionaries is very extensive. As a result, if you know the name of the dictionary you are looking for, it is best to begin with a "Keyword" or "Begins With" search by title in the Library Catalog.

If you do not have the complete title, we recommend the "Advanced Keyword" search option in the Library Catalog. You can focus your search by entering additional keywords to help you limit your search, as shown in the examples below:

- *English Language Dictionaries* (Subject) AND *Oxford University Press* (Publisher)
- *English Language Dictionaries* (Subject) AND *Slang* (Dictionaries) AND *hip-hop* (Anywhere)
- *English Language Dictionaries* (Subject) AND *Northern Ireland* (Anywhere)
- *English Language Dictionaries* (Subject) AND *Webster's* (Title)

However, for some specific types of dictionaries, it may be helpful to use the "Begins With" subject search using Library of Congress Subject Headings. For dictionaries which **focus on English language usage in specific regions or countries**, include your search as shown below:

- *English language – Canada – Dictionaries.*
- *English language – Dialects – England – Yorkshire – Dictionaries.*

For **bilingual dictionaries**, you will need to enter both languages. For example, an English/French dictionary would be:

- *English Language - Dictionaries - French*

Other related works, such as **etymological dictionaries**, **slang dictionaries**, **rhyming dictionaries**, or **conversation and phrase books**, the subject headings are structured in the following way:

- *English language – Etymology – Dictionaries.*
- *English language – Slang – Dictionaries.*
- *English language – Australia – Slang – Dictionaries.*
- *English language – Conversation and phrase books – French.*
- *English language – Rhyme – Dictionaries.*

## Dictionaries (Other Languages)

For non-English language dictionaries, often it is easy to browse the collections by using the "Begins With" search in the Library Catalog using the subject option.

In general, the Library of Congress Subject Headings for dictionaries begin with the **specific language** followed by the term **dictionaries**. For example, you can enter your subject headings as structured below:

- *Chinese language – Dictionaries*
- *Tamil language – Dictionaries*

For **bilingual dictionaries**, you will need to enter both languages.

- *French Language - Dictionaries - German* (French/German)
- *German Language - Dictionaries - French* (German/French)

Other related works, such as **etymological dictionaries**, **slang dictionaries**, **rhyming dictionaries**, or **conversation and phrase books**, the subject headings are structured in the following way:

- *Japanese language – Slang – Dictionaries.*
- *Hindi language – Conversation and phrase books – English.*
- *Finnish language – Etymology – Dictionaries.*
- *Russian language – Rhyme – Dictionaries.*

As with English Language dictionaries, you may have more success using the "Advanced Keyword" search option in the Library Catalog when looking for specific titles. You can select to limit by language, enter **dictionaries** as a Subject search, and then add additional search terms.

- *Dictionaries (Subject) AND Cassell's (Title). Limit by language to French.*
- *Dictionaries (Subject) AND Oxford (Publisher). Limit by language to Latin.*
- *Dictionaries (Subject) AND Etymology (Subject). Limit by language to Hebrew.*

## Dictionaries Subject Specific

The Library has an extensive collection of dictionaries that focus on specific subjects. You can locate these by using the "Begins With" subject search option, entering the main subject heading, and then browsing to the subject that includes the term *dictionaries*:

- *Philosophy – Dictionaries*
- *Computer science – Dictionaries.*
- *Law – United States – Dictionaries.*

If you are looking for a subject-specific dictionary in a language other than English, the main subject will come before **dictionaries** and the language will appear at the end:

- *Medicine – Dictionaries – Arabic*
- *Philosophy – Dictionaries – Bengali.*
- *Computer science – Dictionaries – Russian.*

If you are unfamiliar with the subject headings for a specific field, you may find it more effective to use the "Advanced Keyword" search option in the Library Catalog, which will allow you to combine several keyword searches at once. In addition, this search option will also allow you to limit by language:

- *Dictionaries (Subject) AND Catholic (Subject)*
- *Dictionaries (Subject) AND Law (Subject) AND Puerto Rico (Anywhere). Limit by language to Spanish.*
- *Dictionaries (Subject) AND television (Anywhere)*