

The French Language
Dictionaries, Dialects, History
(Call Number Range PC 2001-3761)

Historical Dictionaries

OLD FRENCH / ANCIEN FRANÇAIS

Library of Congress Subject Heading:
French language – To 1500 -- Dictionaries

Altfranzösisches Wörterbuch. Tobler and Lommatzsch. 11 volumes

A very large-scale historical dictionary that attempts to list all words used in the period 1100-1400. Special emphasis on the literary language. Indicates parallels in other Romance languages, giving history and examples of use and references to other studies.

General Reference: PC 2893.T62 1925 QUARTO

Dictionnaire de l'ancienne langue française, et de tous ses dialectes de IX^e au XV^e siècle.
F.E. Godefroy. 10 volumes

The basic work on old French, with a profusion of illustrative quotations. Vol.'s 9 and 10 are supplementary and include words that survive in modern French.

D Level Blue Labels: PC 2889 .G6 1969

Also online at: <http://www.champion-electronique.net/bases/index.php>

Dictionnaire étymologique de l'ancien français. (the “DEAF”) Kurt Baldinger.

An ongoing project. So far the letters “G” through “J” are complete. Covers French vocabulary from the *Serments de Strasbourg* (842) to the mid-14th century. A highly technical and detailed etymological dictionary, with numerous references to source texts and modern scholarship. Entries are arranged under base forms; thus indexes are essential (PC 2883.B3 1974 Index QUARTO)

D Level Blue Labels: PC 2883.B3 1974 QUARTO

[There is a *Complément bibliographique* (PC 2883.B3 1974 Suppl. QUARTO) that lists texts and has a chronology, 842-1350. Indexes of authors, editors, and manuscripts.]

Dictionnaire historique de l'ancien langage françois. La Curne de Sainte-Palaye

10 volumes. Centers on the literature of the 12th – 14th centuries. Consists of lengthy entries with numerous citations. Strong in idioms and proverbs.

D Level Blue Labels: PC 2889 .S2 1875 QUARTO

[Note: These volumes are brittle and have been shrink-wrapped. As soon as possible, they will be scanned and new copies will be in the Stacks on D Level.]

Also included on the CD-ROM *L'atelier historique de la langue française*. Comp File 2564. Searchable, and cross-searchable with the other 7 historical French dictionaries. Dictionnaire de l'ancien français, jusqu'au milieu du XIVe siècle. A.J. Greimas.

(12,000 words, from the Chanson de Roland to 1350, with citations for the word's 1st appearance in a literary work, etymology, and illustrative quotations. List of sources.)
D Level Blue Labels: PC 2889 .G72 1968

Anglo-Norman dictionary. W. Rothwell et al.

Covers the vocabulary of texts in French used in Britain between the Norman Conquest and the late 15th century. Definitions and applications fully supported by quotations.

General Reference: PC 2946 .A53 1992

Also: Dictionnaire franco-normand. G. Métivier.

LSC: PH 936 .G8M6

RENAISSANCE AND CLASSICAL FRENCH

Library of Congress Subject Heading:

French language—Early modern, 1500-1700 -- Dictionaries

Dictionnaire de la langue française du seizième siècle. E. Huguet. 7 volumes

16th century words no longer in use, or whose meanings have changed. Profusely illustrated with quotations. Arrangement is similar to the Tobler-Lommatzsch (above): each meaning gets a separate paragraph, a brief gloss, and generous quotations from 16th century texts, with precise references. List of source texts.

General Reference: PC 2650 .H7 QUARTO

Dictionnaire du moyen français : la Renaissance. A.J. Greimas,

Covers the vocabulary of texts from Froissart to Rabelais and Montaigne
D Level Blue Labels: PC 2650 .G74 1992

Dictionnaire du français classique : le XVII^e siècle. Jean Dubois.

5000 entries for words from classical literary texts of the 17th century, that have become obsolete or that have changed meanings. Illustrative quotations from Racine, Corneille, etc. Bibliography of sources.

D Level Blue Labels: PC 2650 .D83 1992

Le français classique lexique de la langue du dix-septième siècle. G. Cayrou.

Glossary of words that are no longer used, or have changed meaning. Generous quotations from literature, with precise references. Draws on contemporary grammars and dictionaries to illustrate usage.

LSC: PH 650 .C38

Le Grand Robert de la langue française: dictionnaire alphabétique et analogique de la langue française. Paul Robert. 9 volumes

An outstanding dictionary, compiled on historical principles and giving comprehensive coverage of French from the 15th century to the present. Over 80,000 words, with etymology, pronunciation, analogies, synonyms and antonyms, and the history of each word's development. Quotations with precise sources, and cross-references to other words. Vol. 9 lists 2000 featured authors and their works.

General Reference : PC 2625 .R552 1985 QUARTO

Also a **CD-ROM** in Audio/Visual. *COMP FILE 25*

Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française. Imprimerie du Roi **First Edition 1694**

D Level Blue Label (facsimile edition): PC 2625 .A3 1901 QUARTO

Also on CD-ROM. Contains the entire text of the 1694 ed. of the Dictionnaire de l'Académie française, as well as facsimiles of the original pages. In addition, the user may search concordances, several indexes, and employ other sophisticated research tools.

Audio/Visual Center: Comp File 1614

[See also CD-ROM below with all 8 early editions.]



Modern Language Dictionaries: 18th to 21st centuries

FRENCH / FRENCH DICTIONARIES

Library of Congress Subject Heading:

French language--Dictionaries

Dictionnaire critique de la langue française (1787). Jean- François Féraud. 3 volumes

Major concern of wide and comprehensive work is to provide foreigners or people from the remote regions of France with a comprehensive and easy guide to authorized, proper usage of French. Not only does he mention and criticize the major sources of good usage, such as the *Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française*, Trévoux's or Richelet's dictionaries, he also adds a wide range of his own grammatical remarks, proving in doing so to be one of the most penetrating observers of post-classical French language. A tool for a better understanding of Rousseau, Diderot, and Beaumarchais' work.

D Level Blue Labels: PC 2620 .F46 1994

Also online at: <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/efts/ARTFL/projects/dicos/FERAUD/>

Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française.

The very conservative "official" dictionary of the language that traditionally includes very few scientific, technical, or foreign terms. Concerned only with current usage and gives usage but not quotations. No etymologies.

- 1st edition (1694): PC 2625 .A3 1901 QUARTO; and see CD-ROM above and ARTFL access below
2nd edition (1718): See CD-ROM below
3rd edition (1740): See CD-ROM below
4th edition (1762): Special Collections PH 619.A16 1776; PH 619.A16 1778; and ARTFL access below
5th edition (1798): Special Collections PH 619.A16 1798; D Level PC 2625 .D455 1825 QUARTO; and ARTFL access below
6th edition (1835): PC 2625 .A3 1835 QUARTO; and ARTFL access below
7th edition (1878): PC 2625 .A3 1884 QUARTO
8th edition (1932-5): PC 2625 .A3 1932 QUARTO (incomplete); and ARTFL access below
9th edition (1992-): General Reference: PC 2625 .D455 2000 (ongoing; up to *map*)

Le dictionnaire de l'Académie française: les 8 éditions complètes du XVII^e siècle au XX^e siècle. A CD-ROM that includes all 8 editions of the *Dictionnaire*, which can be searched in many ways, including by the dates of a word's appearance and disappearance in the language. COMP FILE 3350

5 editions are available from the ARTFL project (1, 4, 5, 6, and 8):
<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/efts/ARTFL/projects/dicos/ACADEMIE/>

Les préfaces du Dictionnaire de l'Académie française 1694-1992. PC 2625 .A337 1997

Grand Larousse de la langue française. 7 volumes.

The vocabulary of 19th and 20th century French, with scientific and technical terms well-represented. 70,000 words with pronunciation, etymology, date of 1st appearance, synonyms, antonyms, and quotations from literature. Lengthy articles on concepts in grammar and linguistics are interspersed, so that the dictionary serves as a kind of encyclopedia as well. Vol. 7 has a bibliography of sources.

General Reference: PC 2625.G7 1971

Dictionnaire de la langue française. E. Littré. 7 volumes

Emile Littré's great dictionary, said to be the greatest ever compiled by a single man. Modern French, from the 17th century on. Each word gives meaning and quotations from literature. Some entries have a paragraph "HIST.", with more selective quotations from the 10th to the 16th centuries; and "ETYM", with a note on word origins and selected dialect forms. Vol. 7 has a bibliography of sources

General Reference: PC 2625 .L6 1994 QUARTO

Also a **CD-ROM** in Audio/Visual. COMP FILE 3879

Also online at: <http://litre.reverso.net/dictionnaire-francais/>

Le Grand Robert de la langue française: dictionnaire alphabétique et analogique de la langue française. Paul Robert. 9 volumes

An outstanding dictionary, compiled on historical principles and giving comprehensive coverage of French from the 15th century to the present. Over 80,000 words, with etymology, pronunciation, analogies, synonyms and antonyms, and the history of each word's development. Quotations with precise sources, and cross-references to other words. Vol. 9 lists 2000 featured authors and their works.

General Reference : PC 2625 .R552 1985 QUARTO

Also a **CD-ROM** in Audio/Visual. COMP FILE 25

Trésor de la langue française; dictionnaire de la langue du XIX^e et du XX^e siècle (1789-1960). 16 volumes

Historical dictionary of 19th and 20th century French. Entries have extended definitions, quotations from texts, pronunciation, orthography, etymology, lengthy notes on history and usage, and references to other sources of information.

General Reference : PC 2625 .I4 1971 QUARTO

Online version: <http://atilf.atilf.fr/tlf.htm>

Related to the Trésor is the database **ARTFL**, containing all the texts used in the creation of the dictionary. A database of texts was created to provide a corpus from which to draw quotations for the words. This database became "FRANTEXT", which became in turn ARTFL.

"**FRANTEXT** provides access to nearly 2,000 standard scholarly editions, ranging from classic works of French literature to various kinds of non-fiction prose and technical writing. The 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries are about equally represented, with a smaller selection of 17th century texts as well as some medieval and Renaissance texts. Genres include novels, verse, theater, journalism, essays, correspondence, and treatises. Subjects include literary criticism, biology, history, economics, and philosophy." (Sebastian Hierl, WESS Newsletter Spring 2005.)

Available to the JHU community, from the Libraries' Home Page under "Online Resources, By Subject".

FRENCH / ENGLISH DICTIONARIES

Library of Congress Subject Heading:
French language--Dictionaries--English
English language--Dictionaries---French

Harrap's standard French and English dictionary. 4 volumes (vol. 1-2 French-English; vol. 3-4 English-French)

Regarded as the most comprehensive and authoritative of its kind. Its publishers claim it is the largest bilingual reference work in existence. Nearly 250,000 words, embracing all aspects of modern spoken and written French. Includes technical terms, slang, neologisms, and the French of Canada, Belgium, etc. Pronunciation, but not etymology.

General Reference: PC 2640 .H3 1963 Quarto

Collins-Robert French-English / English-French dictionary.

Probably the best single volume bilingual dictionary. Frequent new editions (there are several previous editions in the stacks on D Level). Emphasis is firmly on current usage; many additions are made to each edition in science, technology, business, computing, sports. Systematic use of labels and symbols to indicate the style, register, etc. (e.g. 1-3 asterisks are given to a word, from slightly informal to taboo).

General Reference: PC 2640 .C69 2003 (also a 1998 edition)

Oxford-Hachette French Dictionary.

Over 350,000 words; a rival to the Collins for best bilingual dictionary. The language is taken from large e-text collections, and is up-to-date. Abbreviations, acronyms, proper names in main sequence. Extra features: notes on usage in numbered boxes, guide to correspondence, verb lists, maps.

General Reference: PC 2640 .O94 2001

ARTFL English-French dictionary

Not as complete as the main ARTFL dictionary, but a handy online tool.

<http://machaut.uchicago.edu/?resource=frengdict>

French Dictionaries and Word Lists

A listing of several online French/English dictionaries.

http://french.about.com/od/dictionaries/French_Dictionaries_and_Word_Lists.htm



Etymology

Library of Congress Subject Heading:

French language -- Etymology - - Dictionaries

Französisches etymologisches Wörterbuch. W. Wartburg. volumes.

A comprehensive, scholarly etymological dictionary. Arranged by the original Vulgar Latin words and traces the historical development of all variant forms in great detail. Published in parts over many years. Volumes 1-14 cover Latin-derived words.

D Level Blue Labels: PC 2580 .W3 1928

Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue française. O.Bloch.

A scholarly etymological dictionary of contemporary French. Considers words only on their basic meanings and gives dates of earliest appearance, historical information, and derivatives. MSEL owns several editions.

D Level Blue Labels: PC 2580 .B56 1989

Dictionnaire historique de la langue française. A. Rey. 2 volumes

A major new etymological dictionary, published to mark 1000 years of the French language. Each word is described in great detail, from the earliest sources to current usage. Lengthy entries include information on derivatives, figurative uses and phrases, with dates of 1st occurrences. A "great achievement, making etymology accessible to the widest range of readers."

General Reference: PC 2580 .D53 1998

Grand dictionnaire étymologique & historique du français. J.Dubois, H.Mitterand, A. Dauzat.

A substantial dictionary, giving brief etymological information, date of 1st use, reference to sources, and historical evolution. Also includes a bibliography of sources, and an introductory essay on the history of the language.

D Level Blue Labels: PC 2580 .D82 2005



History of the French Language

Library of Congress Subject Heading:
French language--History

Histoire de la langue française des origines à 1900. F. Brunot. 13 volumes in 22

A monumental, well-documented history, tracing the development of the language against the social, political and literary setting.

D Level: PH 75 .B81

A history of the French language. Peter Rickard.

A reliable, concise survey in English, with a bibliography and statistics on French speakers throughout the world.

D Level: PH 75 .R5 1989

Histoire de la langue française. G. Antoine, R. Martin, B. Cerquiglini.

A continuation of Brunot (above). 4 volumes:

Volume 1: 1815-1880 on order

Volume 2: 1880-1914 LSC PH 85 .H57 (*Being transferred to MSEL and reclassified for D Level Blue Labels*)

Volume 3: 1914-1945 Blue PC 2087 .H571

Volume 4: 1945-2000 Blue PC 2087 .H573

Dialects and Francophone French

Library of Congress Subject Heading:
French language--Dialects

Atlas linguistique de la France. C.V.J. Russ

15 regional chapters on dialects of French, Austria, Luxemburg, Switzierland and Alsace. Discussion of each dialect's status in the region, historical and geographical background, and detailed description of each. Extensive bibliographies after each chapter.

LSC: *PH 33 .G48 Q*

There are many dictionaries and grammars of the **many dialects of French** (Picard, Ardennes, Brittany, Provençal, etc.) To locate them, do an Alphabetical search in the catalog on Subjects—Library of Congress.

Type in: *French language--Dialects- -Name of dialect*

There are also many dictionaries of **francophone French from the many former colonies**. To locate them, do an Alphabetical search in the catalog on Subjects—Library of Congress.

Type in: *French language- -Country name (Algeria, Burundi, Caribbean area, Madagascar, etc)*
or *French language--Dialects- -Country name*

Some of the major dictionaries of dialects and Francophone French include:

Provençal

Dictionnaire des mots de base du francoprovençal.

D Level Blue Labels: *PC 3086 .S84 2003*

Lexique roman, ou, Dictionnaire de la langue des troubadours. François-Juste-Marie Raynouard. 6 volumes

D Level Blue Labels: *PC 3289 .R32 1996*

Dictionnaire français-provençal = Diciounàri francés-prouvençau.

D Level Blue Labels: *PC 3376 .C68 1995*

Dictionnaire provençal-français. 3 volumes.
D Level Blue Labels: PC 3376 .H7 QUARTO

Lou trésor dóu Felibrige : ou, Dictionnaire provençal-français, embrassant les divers dialectes de la langue d'oc moderne. Frédéric Mistral. 4 volumes
D Level Blue Labels: PC 3376 .M7 1979 QUARTO

Occitan

Diccionari general occitan : a partir dels parlars lengadocians.
D Level Blue Labels: PC 3376 .C36 QUARTO

Dictionnaire occitan-français et français Occitan. Paul Villa.
D Level Blue Labels: PC 3376 .V55 2004

Québec and Canada

Dictionnaire de la langue québécoise. L. Bergeron.
General Reference: PC 3643 .Q4B47 1997

NTC's dictionary of Canadian French. S. Robinson & D. Smith.
General Reference: PC 3637 .R595 1998

Belgium

Dictionnaire français-liégeois.
D Level Blue Labels: PC 3046 .H28

Dictionnaire des parlars wallons du pays de Bastogne.
D Level Blue Labels: PC 3046 .F73 1994

Channel Islands (Jersey and Guernsey)

Dictionnaire franco-normand; ou, Recueil des mots particuliers au dialecte de Guernesey, faisant voir leurs relations romanes, celtiques et tudesques. G. Métivier.
LSC: PH 936 .G8 .M6

A glossary of Jersey-French. N.C.W. Spence.
LSC: PH 937 .J4 S6 1960

Slang Dictionaries

Library of Congress Subject Heading:
French language--Slang--Dictionaries

Dictionnaire de l'argot français et de ses origines. Jean-Paul Colin.

Slang terms, past and present, illustrated with thousands of quotations from literature, songs, and the media. Etymologies included.

D Level Blue Labels : *PC 3741 .C66 2001*

Dictionnaire historique des argots français. G. Esnault.

A scholarly dictionary of slang with 7500 entries. Gives definition, dated examples, and usually etymology.

General Reference: *PC 3741 .E8 1965*

L'Insolite : dictionnaire des mots sauvages des écrivains des 19^e et 20^e siècles. Maurice Rheims.

Lists slang and new coinages found in 19th and 20th century literature. Entries include literary context, exact reference, and explanatory notes.

D Level Blue Labels : *PC 2460 .R5 1989*

Harrap's Slang dictionary: English-French/French-English. G.A. Marks and C.B. Johnson.

Over 50,000 words and phrases. Clearly laid out, with types of slang (rhyming, vulgar, Australian, etc.) indicated. A thesaurus for synonyms for key words asterisked in the text follows each section.

General Reference: *PC 3741 .M33 1985*

L'argot au XXe siècle : dictionnaire français-argot. Aristide Bruant.

D Level Blue Labels : *PC 3299 .B78 1993*

L'argot ancien (1455-1850), ses éléments constitutifs, ses rapports avec les langues secrètes de l'Europe méridionale et l'argot moderne, avec un appendice sur l'argot jugé par Victor Hugo et Balzac. L. Sainéan.

LSC: *PH 1726 .S14*

Voir aussi: Les sources de l'argot ancien (2 vol.), par L. Sainéan. *D Level:* *PH 1725 .S13*

There are many more slang dictionaries on D Level, Blue Labels PC 3741 – PC 3761.

French Studies Web, from the Western European Studies Section of ACRL.
http://wess.lib.byu.edu/index.php/French_Reference_Pages



Other Resources

Les dictionnaires de langue française: tradition et innovation. International journal of lexicography. March 2002. (the whole issue is devoted to French dictionaries)

Les dictionnaires français, outils d'une langue et d'une culture. Jean Pruvost.
D Level Blue Labels : PC 2611.P78 2006

Les Dictionnaires du français moderne, 1539-1863. Bernard Quemada.
Etude sur leur histoire, leurs types et leurs méthodes.
D Level Blue Labels : PC 2611 .Q4 1967

Dictionaries of foreign languages. R. L. Collison.
D Level: Z 7004 .D5 C6 1955

A history of foreign-language dictionaries. R. L. Collison.
LSC: P 327 .C61 1982