

GUIDE to RESEARCH in FRENCH LITERATURE

Locating Secondary literature



A: Primarily access to articles

B: Primarily access to books

O: Access to other kinds of materials (manuscripts, etc.)

Resources that cover all time periods of French literature:

E- Resources

B WorldCat.

The online catalog of books in almost all US and some European research libraries. Keyword searching by author, title, subject; with capability to limit by language, time period, etc.

Web database: *Access from Libraries' Home Page*

B, O Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

All the catalogues are now online, including access to books, e-texts, special collections, etc.

Web site: www.bnf.fr

B, O Le Catalogue Collectif de France

"Une interface d'interrogation unique de trois grands catalogues français, *le catalogue des fonds des bibliothèques municipales rétroconvertis, BN-Opale Plus et le catalogue du Système universitaire de documentation*. Le CCFr permet ainsi de localiser plus de 15 millions de documents, conservés dans les bibliothèques françaises. C'est également un répertoire des ressources documentaires françaises : il permet la consultation du Répertoire national des bibliothèques et des centres de documentation rassemblant le descriptif complet des bibliothèques et centres de documentations français - 4000 établissements -, ainsi que de leurs fonds."

Web site: <http://www.ccf.fr.bnf.fr/>

A MLA International Bibliography

Consists of bibliographic records pertaining to literature, language, linguistics, and folklore, and includes coverage from 1963 to the present. Provides access to scholarly research in over 4,400 journals and series. It also covers relevant monographs, working papers, proceedings, bibliographies, and other formats.

Web database: *Access from Libraries' Home Page, under **Online resources***

A Humanities Abstracts

A database of articles that cites articles from English-language periodicals, plus the full text of selected periodicals. Subjects covered: Archaeology, Area Studies, Art, Classical Studies, Communications, Dance, Film, Folklore, Gender Studies, History, Journalism, Linguistics, Literary & Social Criticism Literature, Music, Performing Arts, Philosophy, Religion and Theology.

Web database: *Access from Libraries' Home Page, under **Online Resources***

A Arts and Humanities Index

A multidisciplinary database covering the journal literature of the arts and humanities. It indexes 1,144 of the world's leading arts and humanities journals, as well as covering individually selected, relevant items from over 6,800 major science and social science journals. Provides access to current information and retrospective data from 1975 forward. Do a *Cited Reference Search* and *Find Related Records*, to expand your searching forwards and sideways.

Web database: *Access from Libraries' Home Page, under **Online Resources***

A Periodical Index Online

An electronic index to millions of articles published in thousands (4698) of periodicals in the arts, humanities and social sciences since 1770. Includes French titles.

Web Access: *Access from Libraries' Home Page, under **Online Resources***

A Essay and General Literature Index.

Cites essays and articles contained in collections of essays and other works published in the United States, Great Britain and Canada. Focus on humanities and social sciences.

Web database: *Access from Libraries' Home Page, under **Online Resources***

A JSTOR.

An electronic archive of journal articles that includes **backfiles** of nearly 60 literary journals (JSTOR adds titles every year). They are completely searchable and include the full-text of articles in several formats. JSTOR does not, however, usually include recent years of journals. But it does go back to the early 20th century in coverage, and thus acts as an index to articles that are not covered in most electronic (and print) indexes.

Web access: *Access from Libraries' Home Page, under **Online Resources***

A Project MUSE.

Searches the **recent years** of online journals of the JHU Press. Full-text of articles now includes other presses as well; including Oxford University, Carnegie Mellon, MIT Press, Duke University.

Web access: *Access from Libraries' Home Page, under **Online Resources***

Print Resources

A Bibliographie der französischen Sprach-und-Literaturwissenschaft. (the "Klapp").

The best source for French language books, articles, and theses. Each volume has a section on individual time periods, plus one on generalities and French literature outside France. A bit cumbersome; you have to search a volume for each year, but well worth the effort. Many resources not in any database.

General Reference: Z 2171.B56 (1956-present)

B Dictionnaire des lettres françaises. G. Grente, ed.

Separate volumes for: *Le Moyen Age*, *Le XVI^e siècle*, *Le XVII^e siècle*, *Le XVIII^e siècle* (2 vol.), *Le XIX^e siècle* (2 vol.). Each volume begins with a long, general article and bibliography of secondary sources on the period. Articles on individual authors, literary forms, themes, anonymous works, general literary topics. Major authors and topics have a substantial bibliography at the end of each article, but even secondary authors have a short bibliography.

General Reference: PQ 41 .D53 (new edition includes so far: *Moyen Age*, *XVII^e* and *XVIII^e* siecles.

B Dictionnaire des littératures de langue française. J-P Beaumarchais.

4-volumes, alphabetical by author. Includes works and writers from the IX century to the present (including Francophone writers). Each article does include a bibliography, usually short. But for major writers, it can be substantial. Index of works cited, and a chronological index of key ideas.

General Reference: PQ 41 .B4 1987

B, A Manuel bibliographique de la littérature française moderne XVI^e, XVII^e, XVIII^e, et XIX^e siècle. G. Lanson.

An ambitious undertaking, the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries in two large volumes. Very useful organization by subjects: consult the *Table des matières*. The citations tend to be very brief, but it does provide access to obscure works and little known authors.

D Level: Z 2171 .L22 1921a

B, A Bibliographie de la littérature française du Moyen Age à nos jours. R. Rancoeur.

An annual compilation of studies on French literature. Organized chronologically. Complements the Klapp (above).

Being transferred to D Level: PH 2035 .B57 (1962-1980)

B, A The year's work in modern language studies.

Critically assess major articles, books and new editions. Better coverage of English language than French language publications. Very useful introduction to recent secondary literature.

LSC 1929-1984: PD 1 .Y39

D Level 1985-2004: PB 1 .Y45

General Reference 2005: PB 1 .Y45



Moyen Âge

A International Medieval Bibliography

A comprehensive, current bibliography of articles in journals and miscellany volumes (conference proceedings, essay collections or Festschriften) worldwide.

Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page, under **Online Resources**

B, A Critical bibliography of French literature : The Medieval Period.

An invaluable selective annotated bibliography, each section compiled by a specialist. References to books, articles, and dissertations are included for each writer analyzed.

General Reference: Z 2171 .C74

A, O ITER: Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance

“Covers all literature pertaining to the Middle Ages and Renaissance (400-1700). Citations for journal articles, reviews, bibliographies, catalogues, abstracts and discographies are included. Also included are citations for monographs, and material published in monographs and collections of essays.”

Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page, under **Online Resources**

B, A Manual bibliographique de la littérature française du Moyen Age. R. Bossuat.

Lists editions, translations, adaptations, and critical studies, in 2 sections: *L'Ancien français* and *Le Moyen français*. Index of authors, titles, and critics.

General Reference: PQ 151 .B65 plus Supplement

B, A Bibliographical bulletin of the International Arthurian Society / Bulletin bibliographique de la Société Internationale Arturienne.

An annual bibliography of studies on medieval literature – the *matière de Bretagne*. The yearly volumes are organized by **place of publication**, that is all the studies published in North America or in Japan are listed together. Not exactly helpful for research by subject. However, there are index volumes that cover up to 1998, alphabetical by **author** with a **Subject Index** as well.

D Level 1990– present : Z 8045 .I5
LSC: 1975-1989: Z 8045 .I5
LSC: 1949-1974: P 2685 .Z9I5

B, A, O Les légendes épiques; recherches sur la formation des chansons de geste. J. Bédier.

4-volume history of the *chansons de geste* is not a bibliography itself, but does include extensive and useful references. Considered a standard in the field.

D Level: PH 2201 .B31 1914-1921

B, A **Bibliographie des chansons de geste** (complément des Épopées françaises). L. Gautier. Volume 5 of Gautier's *Épopées françaises* is a bibliography that lists works and criticism on individual chansons and chansonniers. Covers up to 1890.

D Level: *Z 172 .G27 1897a*

B, A, O **Bibliographie des romans et nouvelles en prose française antérieurs à 1500**. B. Woledge.

There is actually little secondary literature here. A few entries do have works listed under *À consulter*. For the most part, this is an inventory of manuscripts and early printed editions of the works, dates, literary sources and geographical origins. Covers up to 1954. There is a supplement volume covering 1954-1973.

D level: *PH 2035 .W74 1975*

B, A, O **The Old French narrative lay**. G.S. Burgess

A 20 page bibliography of General Studies of Old French lays, followed by a listing of 20 individual lays. Includes manuscripts and printed editions, as well as translations and studies.

D Level : *Z 2174 .P7 B87 1995*

There are published studies on some of the more important texts that first circulated in manuscript form, such as ***Le roman de la rose*** and ***La chanson de Roland***. In order to locate these essential studies you may have to try several searches.

- First try a **Subject Keyword** search on words from the title and the word ***manuscripts***. For example: ***roman rose manuscripts***.
- You should also try an **Alphabetical Subject** search on the work itself. For example, the Library of Congress Subject Heading for *Le roman de la Rose* is *Guillaume, de Lorris, fl. 1230. Roman de la Rose*. For *La Chanson de Roland* it is simply *Chanson de Roland*.
- Also try a **Title Keyword** search on words from the title of the work and the words ***manuscript, manuscripts, manuscrit, and manuscrits***.

You will need to try all of these approaches, because early books especially often have minimal or no real Subject Headings in their records. You need to search their titles as well.

For more obscure manuscripts, you may find information about them in the ***MLA International Bibliography***, or another database. Try a General Keyword search in the JHU Libraries catalog, the Library of Congress catalog, or ***WorldCat***. You can also often find information on obscure manuscripts by doing a ***Google*** search.



Seizième siècle

B, A Critical bibliography of French literature : The Sixteenth Century.

An invaluable selective annotated bibliography, each section compiled by a specialist. References to books, articles, and dissertations are included for each writer analyzed.

General Reference: Z 2171 .C74

B, A Bibliographie de la littérature française du seizième siècle. A. Cioranescu.

Lists works written, as well as *Études* for most writers. For major writers, such as Ronsard, the *Études* section is vast and quite detailed. First part of the volume has a section listing works on the literary history of the period.

General Reference: Z 2172 .C48

B, A Bibliographie internationale de l'humanisme et la Renaissance.

A very interdisciplinary index. Includes references to works in many languages and many subjects; economics, jurisprudence, philosophy, religion, art, the sciences, and literature. Loosely, it covers the 15th and 16th centuries. Index by *Matières* (rather general subject headings), by geographical regions, and by author.

D Level: Z 6207 .R4B5

B, A, O Manuel de bibliographie littéraire, pour les XVI^e, XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles français (1921-55). J. Giraud.

3 volumes, covering over 30 years of 20th century criticism. Organized into the 3 centuries covered, plus *Ouvrages généraux*. Within each category, organized by subjects such as *Histoire des idées*, *Comparatisme*, *Moyens d'expression*, *Culture et vie intellectuelle*. And finally, a section in each century on *Auteurs*; an alphabetical index listing books, articles, dissertations, and other studies. A useful tool to fill in the blanks left by other indexes.

Being transferred to D Level:

PH 2035 .G522 (1946-55)

PH 2035 .G521 (1936-45)

PH 2035 .G52 (1921-35)



Dix-septième siècle

B, A Critical bibliography of French literature : The Seventeenth Century.

An invaluable selective annotated bibliography, each section compiled by a specialist. References to books, articles, and dissertations are included for each writer analyzed.

General Reference: Z 2171 .C74

B, A Bibliographie de la littérature française du dix-septième siècle. A. Cioranescu.

Lists works written, as well as *Études* for most writers. For major writers, such as Racine, the *Études* section is vast and quite detailed. 3 volumes, with indexes of *Auteurs*, *Illustrateurs*, *Cryptonymes*, *Matières* (most useful for subject access). First volume has a section listing works on the literary history of the period.

General Reference: Z 2172 .C48

B, A, O Manuel de bibliographie littéraire, pour les XVI^e, XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles français (1921-55). J. Giraud.

3 volumes, covering over 30 years of 20th century criticism. Organized into the 3 centuries covered, plus *Ouvrages généraux*. Within each category, organized by subjects such as *Histoire des idées*, *Comparatisme*, *Moyens d'expression*, *Société et vie intellectuelle*, *Renaissance et humanisme*. And finally, a section in each century on *Auteurs*; an alphabetical index listing books, articles, dissertations, and other studies. A useful tool to fill in the blanks left by other indexes.

Being transferred to D Level:

PH 2035 .G522 (1946-55)

PH 2035 .G521 (1936-45)

PH 2035 .G52 (1921-35)



Dix-huitième siècle

B, A Critical bibliography of French literature : The Eighteenth Century.

An invaluable selective annotated bibliography, each section compiled by a specialist. References to books, articles, and dissertations are included for each writer analyzed.

General Reference: Z 2171 .C74

B, A Bibliographie de la littérature française du dix-huitième siècle. A. Cioranescu.

Lists works written, as well as *Études* for most writers. For major writers, such as Voltaire, the *Études* section is vast and quite detailed. 3 volumes, with indexes of *Auteurs*, *Illustrateurs*, *Cryptonymes*, *Matières* (most useful for subject access). First volume has a section on literary history of the period.

General Reference: Z 2172 .C48

B, A, O La France Révolutionnaire et Impériale.

7 volumes. A chronological index of all types of publications from 1789-1808; very detailed.

D Level: PH 2035 .M53

B, A, O Manuel de bibliographie littéraire, pour les XVI^e, XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles français (1921-55). J. Giraud.

3 volumes, covering over 30 years of 20th century criticism. Organized into the 3 centuries covered, plus *Ouvrages généraux*. Within each category, organized by subjects such as *Histoire des idées*, *Comparatisme*, *Encyclopédie*, *Société et vie intellectuelle*, *Préromantisme et sentiment*. And finally, a section in each century on *Auteurs*; an alphabetical index listing books, articles, dissertations, and other studies. A useful tool to fill in the blanks left by other indexes.

Being transferred to D Level: PH 2035 .G522 (1946-55)

PH 2035 .G521 (1936-45)

PH 2035 .G52 (1921-35)

B, A Manuel bibliographique de la littérature française moderne 1500-1900. Part IV; Révolution et dix-neuvième siècle. G. Lanson.

Covers much the same ground as Thieme (above) but includes some writers that are excluded in the Thieme. So it is a complementary source, not to be overlooked. Very useful organization by subjects: consult the *Table des matières*. The citations tend to be very brief, but it does provide access to obscure works and little known authors. Part V is an index volume to both parts, and supplement (addenda) to Part IV.

D Level: Z 2171 .L22 1921

B, A French XX Bibliography

Detailed coverage of French literature from 1885-present. Use the table of contents to orient yourself, as it is organized mostly by genre or literary movement. A section on *Cinema* in each volume, as well as *Philosophy and religion*, *Surrealism*, *Symbolism*, and *Existentialism*; reflecting perhaps the sensibilities of the mid-20th century. Good for things that slip through the cracks of the MLA.

Current Periodicals: Z 2173 .F7 (2004, Volume 12, No. 2)

D level: Z 2173 .F7 (*Indexes for Vol. 1-8; Vol. 9-12, 1990-2003*)

Being transferred to MSEL: Z 2173 .F7 (*Vol. 3-8: 1959-1988, with a few missing volumes*)



Vingtième siècle

B, A Critical bibliography of French literature : The Twentieth Century.

An invaluable selective annotated bibliography, each section compiled by a specialist. References to books, articles, and dissertations are included for each writer analyzed.

General Reference: Z 2171 .C74

B, A Bibliographie de la littérature française de 1800 à 1930. Hugo P. Thieme.

An index by author's name, including works written by the author, and secondary literature about the author. This includes books (*Références*) and articles (*Périodiques*). Treats authors of the period indicated, and is very useful for obscure 19th century writers, as well as the big names, and hard-to-find articles on those writers. The 3rd volume has resources on general themes: *Littérature*, *Genres littéraires*, *Ecoles littéraires*, *Education*, *La France*, *La femme et le féminisme*, *Divers*.

D Level: Z 2171 .T43 1983 (3 volumes)

B, A Bibliographie de la littérature française 1930-39. S. Dreher et M. Rolli

A continuation of the above title, covering a further decade. Good contemporary sources for authors of the period.

Being transferred to MSEL: PH 2035 .D77

B, A Bibliographie de la littérature française 1940-49. M. Drevet.

A continuation of the above title, covering a further decade. Good contemporary sources for authors of the period.

Being transferred to MSEL: PH 2035 .D97

B, A Bibliographie des auteurs modernes de langue française (1801-1975). Talvart & Place

This 22 volume set stops at 1976, and only covers A-Morgan of the alphabet, but for the period covered and the authors included it is invaluable, especially for obscure authors. Lists works written, including books, prefaces, articles, unpublished material, *Ouvrages contestés*, contributions to collective works. Then it lists secondary literature: *Ouvrages à consulter* (books) and *Articles à consulter* (articles).

D Level: PH 2035 .T15

B, A French XX Bibliography

Detailed coverage of French literature from 1885-present. Use the table of contents to orient yourself, as it is organized mostly by genre or literary movement. A section on *Cinema* in each volume, as well as *Philosophy and religion*, *Surrealism*, *Symbolism*, and *Existentialism*; reflecting perhaps the sensibilities of the mid-20th century. Good for things that slip through the cracks of the MLA.

Current Periodicals: Z 2173 .F7 (2003, Volume 12)

D level: Z 2173 .F7 (*Indexes for Vol. 1-8; Vol. 9-11, 1990-2002*)

Being transferred to MSEL: PH 2035 .M5 (*Vol. 3-8: 1959-1988, with a few missing volumes*)



This represents the basics of finding secondary literature. There are many other, more specialized resources.

- A good way to find such things is to use the "**Type of Literature**" search. By doing a keyword subject search in a library catalog on types of literature such as:
catalogs *criticism and interpretation* *bibliography*
indexes *periodicals* *sources*

... you can exploit the fact that these categories are standardized across US library catalogs, and locate relevant or specialized resources.

For example, to find published bibliographies on a writer, do a subject keyword search on author's last name and the word **bibliography**. This is especially useful at Hopkins, as bibliographies are often in LSC and cannot be found by browsing the stacks. The search: *marot bibliography* retrieves 6 titles.

A subject search on *French periodicals indexes* will retrieve 5 important titles.

- You may have noticed certain call numbers that are particularly important. Browsing PH 2035, either in the stacks, or even better, in the online catalog, will turn up some interesting things. Likewise, Z 2160 – 2180 is a place you should be familiar with.
- By reading the introductions and prefaces to the older printed indexes, you will find other bibliographies and indexes mentioned. Follow these leads where possible.
- There are several published guides to research in French literature. Here are a few. You can locate them with a subject keyword search on:
reference books, French, bibliography, philology, handbooks, manuals

Introduction to library research in French literature. Robert K. Baker. *LSC PH 2035 .B34 1978.*

French language and literature : an annotated bibliography. Fernande Bassan, et al. *General Reference Z 2175 .A2 B39 1989.*

Research and reference guide to French studies. Charles B. Osburn. *General Reference Z 2175 .A2 O8*

Manuel bibliographique des études littéraires. B. Beugnot. *LSC PH 2035 .B5665.*

- Finally, there are many published guides to literary research in general. Find them as well with a subject keyword search on:
Literature, research, methodology, bibliography, library

Or a title keyword search on *literary research*.

The art of literary research. Richard D. Altick and John J. Fenstermaker. *D level PO 33 .A4 1993.*

Handbook of literary research. R.H. Miller. *D Level PO 56 .M54 1995.*

A handbook to literary research. ed. Simon Eliot and W.R. Owens. *D level Blue Labels PN73.H36 1998*

The Oxford guide to library research. Thomas Mann. *D Level Z710.M23 1998*