

The German Language  
Dictionaries, Dialects, History  
(Call Number Range PF 3001-5999)



Historical Dictionaries

OLD HIGH GERMAN / ALTHOCHDEUTSCH

***Library of Congress Subject Heading:***

*German language -- Old High German, 750-1050 -- Dictionaries*

Althochdeutsches Wörterbuch. Karg-Gasterstädt-Frings.

The definitive dictionary of the German language as it was written from 750-1050. Entries include grammatical information, later forms of the word, definitions, examples of use from literary sources.

*D Level Blue Labels: PF 3974 .A5 1968 Quarto*

Althochdeutsches Wörterbuch. Schützeichel

A concise dictionary, based on the main literary works of the period. Gives modern German equivalents for each word. Search under "B" for words not found under "P"; "D" for "T". For words beginning with "C", search also under "G", "K", or "Z".

*D Level Blue Labels: PF 3975 .S33 2006*

Althochdeutsches Wörterbuch. Schade

2 volumes. A handy, short-entry dictionary with references to source texts.

*Digital copy available from Libraries Catalog (forthcoming)*

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN / MITTELHOCHDEUTSCH

***Library of Congress Subject Heading:***

*German language--Middle High German, 1050-1500 -- Dictionaries*

Mittelhochdeutsches Wörterbuch. Benecke-Müller-Zarnacke.

The standard dictionary for Middle High German, 1050-1500. Arranged by etymological root, with quotations from poetic sources. Needs to be used with an index, since the entries are NOT alphabetical. See next entry.

*Being transferred to D Level: PF 4324 .M91 1854-66(also in Special Collections)*

Mittelhochdeutsches Handwörterbuch. Lexer

2 volumes. Concise entries in alphabetical order, with volume and page references to Benecke-Müller-Zarnacke. An index to the above title.

*D Level Blue Labels:* PF 4327 .L4 1992

Wörterbuch der mittelhochdeutschen Urkundensprache. Kirschstein.

Another ongoing project. A scholarly dictionary based on a corpus of Old German texts to 1300. Up to *verswern* has been published.

*D Level Blue Labels:* PF 4327 .W67 1994

Mittelhochdeutsche Wörterbuche Online

<http://gaer27.uni-trier.de/MWV-online/MWV-online.html>

MODERN HIGH GERMAN / FRÜHNEUHOCHDEUTSCH

*Library of Congress Subject Heading:*

*German language--Early modern, 1500-1700—Dictionaries*

*German language--Dictionaries*

**The GRIMM:**

1. Deutsches Wörterbuch. Jacob und Wilhelm Grimm. 16 volumes

The classic etymological German dictionary (the German equivalent of the *OED*), that aimed to give an exhaustive account of New High German from the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, with illustrations of usage and history by means of quotations. Completed in 1961 after over 100 years.

*General Reference:* PF 3625 .G72 1854

2. Quellenverzeichnis: (Vol. 17) an alphabetical list of about 60,000 sources cited in the Wörterbuch.

*General Reference:* PF 3625.G72 1854

3. The revised and expanded edition (*Neubearbeitung*) of the Grimm Wörterbuch is an ongoing publication. Volumes 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are in General Reference (*PF 3625 .G72 Quarto*), shelved at the end of the original edition.

4. Grimms deutsches Wörterbuch

Searchable version of this major dictionary This free site includes only the original 16 volume work [1854-1960], not the *Neubearbeitung* [1965-].

<http://germa83.uni-trier.de/DWB/welcome.htm>

Frühneuhochdeutsches Wörterbuch. Robert R. Anderson, Ulrich Goebel, Oskar Reichmann. Berlin : de Gruyter, 1986-

Another ongoing project. Volume 1 includes: Introduction, List of Sources, Bibliography of secondary literature. Up to *stosser* has been published.  
*D Level Blue Labels:*                    *PF 4591 .F78 1989*



## Modern Language Dictionaries

### GERMAN / GERMAN DICTIONARIES

*Library of Congress Subject Heading:*  
*German language--Dictionaries*

#### Deutsches Wörterbuch. Gerhard Wahrig

A single volume (3 columns per page) dictionary; with a comprehensive guide to grammar at the front.

*General Reference:*                    *PF 3625 .W137 2000 QUARTO*

*D Level Blue Labels:*                *PF 3625.W137 2000 QUARTO*

#### Duden : das grosse Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache in zehn Bänden. 10 volumes.

A dictionary for late 20<sup>th</sup> century German language. Includes colloquial usage, regional and national variations, technical terms, abbreviations, acronyms, some proper names. Entries give pronunciation, etymology, definitions, and quotes from contemporary literature and the press.

*General Reference :*                    *PF 3625 .D825 1999*

#### Duden deutsches Universalwörterbuch in einem Band.

A dictionary of current German. Entries include examples of usage, information on spelling, pronunciation, grammar, etymology, and regional variations.

*General Reference:*                    *PF 3625 .D83 2001*

*D Level Blue Labels:*                *PF 3625 .D83 1983*

#### Deutsches Wörterbuch : Bedeutungsgeschichte und Aufbau unseres Wortschatzes.

Hermann Paul.

A single-volume dictionary with entries for 11,000 words, often with lengthy discussion of their historical development, supported by literary quotations and references to other dictionaries. List of sources. Subject index (gives access to words derived from particular languages, used by certain authors, etc.)

*D Level Blue Labels:*                *PF 3625 .P328 2002*

Wörterbuch der deutschen Gegenwartssprache. 6 volumes

A dictionary of contemporary German, using examples from modern writers, with references to sources. Produced in the former East Germany, so a valuable record of words coined there or with a distinctive meaning there. List of sources in volume 6.

*General Reference:* PF 3625 .W622

GERMAN / ENGLISH DICTIONARIES

*Library of Congress Subject Heading:*

*German language—Dictionaries--English*

*English language--Dictionaries---German*

Langenscheidt encyclopaedic Muret-Sanders German dictionary. 2 volumes English to German, 2 volumes German to English

The most comprehensive bilingual dictionary, with nearly 400,000 entries that include pronunciation guides.

*General Reference:* PF 3640 .L242

The Oxford-Duden German dictionary : German-English, English-German.

The product of nearly 10 years joint work by the Oxford University Press and the Dudenverlag. Claims to be the first bilingual dictionary produced by a team based in both language areas. Many useful appendices relating to both languages including grammar, usage, and letter-writing.

*General Reference:* PF 3640 .O94 1997

Harrap's standard German and English dictionary. 3 volumes

An incomplete project (A-R) but the most comprehensive available for what it covers.

*General Reference:* PF 3640 .H3 1963 Quarto

Collins German-English, English-German dictionary : unabridged. by Peter Terrell, et al.

Emphasis on current spoken and written language. Grammars of both languages, as well as a "Language in use" section.

*General Reference:* PF 3640 .H28 1997

LEO English-German dictionary

One of the most popular online dictionaries

<http://dict.leo.org/?lang=en>

FreeDic Wörterbuch

Another online dictionary

<http://dict.leo.org/?lang=en>

BEOLINGUS: Online German-English dictionary  
<http://dict.tu-chemnitz.de/>



## Etymology

*Library of Congress Subject Heading:*  
*German language -- Etymology -- Dictionaries*

Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen. W. Pfeiffer. 3 volumes.

Gives date of first appearance and many citations to sources. List of sources in vol. 1.  
*D Level Blue Labels:* PF 3580 .E88 1989

Etymologisches Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache. F. Kluge.

The standard etymological dictionary. Frequently revised and reprinted. MSEL owns 13 editions.  
*D Level Blue Labels:* PF 3580 .K5 2002

Trübners deutsches Wörterbuch, im Auftrage der Arbeitsgemeinschaft für deutsche Wortforschung. Alfred Götze. 8 volumes

Intended as an abridged version of the Grimm for home use. Particularly valuable for etymologies and historical surveys of the changing meaning of words. Lengthy entries followed by detailed references.  
*D Level Blue Labels:* PF 3580 .T86 1939 QUARTO



## History of the German Language

*Library of Congress Subject Heading:*  
*German language--History*

Geschichte der deutschen Sprache. A. Bach.

A detailed history of the language in 12 chapters with 230 sections, each of which has a substantial bibliography. 23 maps, Subject index. The 8<sup>th</sup> edition is in MSEL. Previous editions in the LSC under PM75 .B12 call number.  
*Being transferred to MSEL D Level Blue Labels (PM 75 .B12 1965)*

Sprachgeschichte: ein Handbuch zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache und ihrer Erforschung. W. Besch et al. 3 volumes

179 chapters on aspects of German historical linguistics. Well organized and extremely detailed, with numbered paragraphs, maps, charts and tables. All chapters have extensive bibliographies. Author and Subject indexes.

*D Level Blue Labels:* PF 3075 .S63 1998 QUARTO

German: a linguistic history to 1945. C.J. Wells.

A detailed historical survey in 10 chapters, well illustrated with tables, maps, and quotations. Select bibliography after each chapter. A wealth of references (p. 436-88) and an extensive general bibliography (p. 489-542). Indexes of names, topics, and places.

*Being transferred to MSEL D Level Blue Labels (PM 75 .W43 1985)*

A history of the German language : with special reference to the cultural and social forces that shaped the standard literary language. John T. Waterman.

*LSC:* PM 75 .W3 1976

Kleine Enzyklopädie. Deutsche Sprache.

In einem Band, eine umfassende Orientierung über die Wissenschaft von der deutschen Sprache.

*LSC:* PM 91 .K64 1983



## Dialects

*Library of Congress Subject Heading:*

*German language--Dialects*

The dialects of modern German: a linguistic survey. C.V.J. Russ

15 regional chapters on dialects of Germany, Austria, Luxemburg, Switzerland 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.

*D Level:* PM 2011 .D52 1990

Wörterbuch deutscher Dialekte: eine Sammlung von Mundartwörtern aus 10 Dialektgebieten im Einzelvergleich. Ulrich Knoop.

*D Level Blue Labels :* PF 5004 .K66 1997

Dialektlexikographie : Berichte über Stand und Methoden deutscher Dialektwörterbücher.

*LSC:* PM 2066 .D5 1976

Deutsche Dialekte - Linkverzeichnis

<http://userweb.port.ac.uk/~joyce1/dialects/index.html>

The major dictionaries of German dialects include: *(note that many of these dictionaries are ongoing projects and not yet complete)*

*Oberdeutsch*

Badisches Wörterbuch. *D Level Blue Labels: PF 5071 .B3O4 1925*  
(up to *scheuer*)

Bayerisches Wörterbuch *D Level Blue Labels: PF5316 .S4 1985* 4 volumes complete

Schwäbisches Wörterbuch *D Level Blue Labels: PF 5281 .F5 1904 Quarto*  
6 volumes complete

Schweizerisches Wörterbuch *D Level Blue Labels: PF5146 .S4 1881 Quarto*  
(up to *warn*)

*Mitteldeutsch*

Pfälzisches Wörterbuch *D Level Blue Labels : PF 5432 .C5 1965 QUARTO*  
6 volumes complete

Rheinisches Wörterbuch *D Level Blue Labels : PF 5412 .M85 1928*  
9 volumes complete

Südhessisches Wörterbuch *D Level Blue Labels : PF 5442 .M3 1968 Quarto*  
5 volumes+ (up to *zäckering*)

Schlesisches Wörterbuch. *D Level Blue Labels: PF 5562 .M56 1963 QUARTO*  
3 volumes complete

*Niederdeutsch*

Wörterbuch der westfälischen Mundart. *LSC: PM 2731 .W84 1882*

Niedersächsisches Wörterbuch. *D Level Blue Labels: PF 5636 .N5 1965*  
6 volumes + (up to *manwessel*)

Mecklenburgisches Wörterbuch. *D Level Blue Labels: PF 5682 .W6 1942 QUARTO*  
7 volumes complete

Preussisches Wörterbuch. LSC: PM 2822 .F91 (2 volumes)

Pommersches Wörterbuch D Level Blue Labels: PF 5797 .P65 1997  
unbound fascicules (up to *klünner*)

Wörterbuch der nordfriesischen Sprache der Wiedingharde. LSC: PL 4098 .W8 J5  
*QUARTO*



### Slang Dictionaries

*Library of Congress Subject Heading:*  
*German language--Slang--Dictionaries*

Illustriertes Lexikon der deutschen Umgangssprache. Heinz Küpper. 8 volumes  
Gives meanings, dates, and regional distributin where appropriate. Indexes of people,  
places, and subjects. 1200 color illustrations.  
*General Reference:* PF 3815 .K87 1982



### Researching the German Language

Bibliographie der deutschen Sprach-und Literaturwissenschaft (“the Köttelwesch”)  
An index to (mostly) German periodical articles and book chapters on German language  
and literature. Annual volumes. An essential resource in German studies.  
*General Reference:* Z 2231 .B58 (1974-)  
*Also available as a database from the Libraries” main Web page, under “Online  
Resources-By Subject” (1986-)*

### MLA International bibliography

The major database for articles (mostly in English) on the German language (and  
literature). Another essential resource.  
*Available from the Libraries” main Web page, under “Online Resources-By Subject”*

### Linguistics Abstracts Online

Contains abstracts of scholarly articles appearing in linguistics journals from around the  
world. Also includes abstracts from articles in related fields.  
*Available from the Libraries” main Web page, under “Online Resources-By Subject”*

### Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts

Covers the study of language including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Coverage is also given to various fields of linguistics including descriptive, historical, comparative, theoretical, and geographical linguistics.

*Available from the Libraries" main Web page, under "Online Resources-By Subject"*



Resources used in this Guide, and for a more complete listing and description of many kinds of German dictionaries:

Walford's guide to reference material. Volume 3: Generalia, language & literature, the arts. "Germanic Languages" p. 576-590.

*D Level: Z 1035 .W25 1993*

A Guide to world language dictionaries. Andrew Dalby. "German" p. 163-179.

*General Reference: P 361.D25 1998*

German Studies Web, from the Western European Studies Section of ACRL.

[http://wess.lib.byu.edu/index.php/German\\_Studies\\_Web](http://wess.lib.byu.edu/index.php/German_Studies_Web)



### Other Resources

A history of foreign-language dictionaries. R. L. Collison.

*LSC: P 327 .C61 1982*

Dictionaries of foreign languages. R. L. Collison.

*D Level: Z 7004 .D5 C6 1955*