

Information Skills for Language and Linguistic Science

Worksheet 4: Finding resources for Language and Linguistic Science

The Library provides access to a range of print and electronic resources that will be key to your studies here at York. These are complemented by the range of materials freely available online through the web.

Key resources:

1. Books
2. Academic Journals
3. Reference works and dictionaries
4. Newspapers
5. Conference proceedings and papers
6. Theses and dissertations
7. Websites
8. Corpora



1. Books

The library has a large collection of print and electronic books (e-books) for research and teaching in Language and Linguistic Science.

Academic books will normally contain *bibliographies* at the back which will help you identify other references on the same topic. The relatively long publishing process means that books may not always contain the most up-to-date information, however, so you will need to complement your research with journals and web resources (see later sections).

If you are doing an extended project, thesis or dissertation, you will need to identify a range of relevant books that have been published on your topic. Try searching the British Library catalogue (<http://catalogue.bl.uk>) or COPAC (<http://copac.ac.uk/>). You may need to order some titles through the library's *Interlending* service if they are not in York (see worksheet 2).

To find books in York, you will need to use our catalogue. We have two versions of the catalogue: Classic Catalogue [<http://libcatalogue.york.ac.uk/>] and YorSearch:

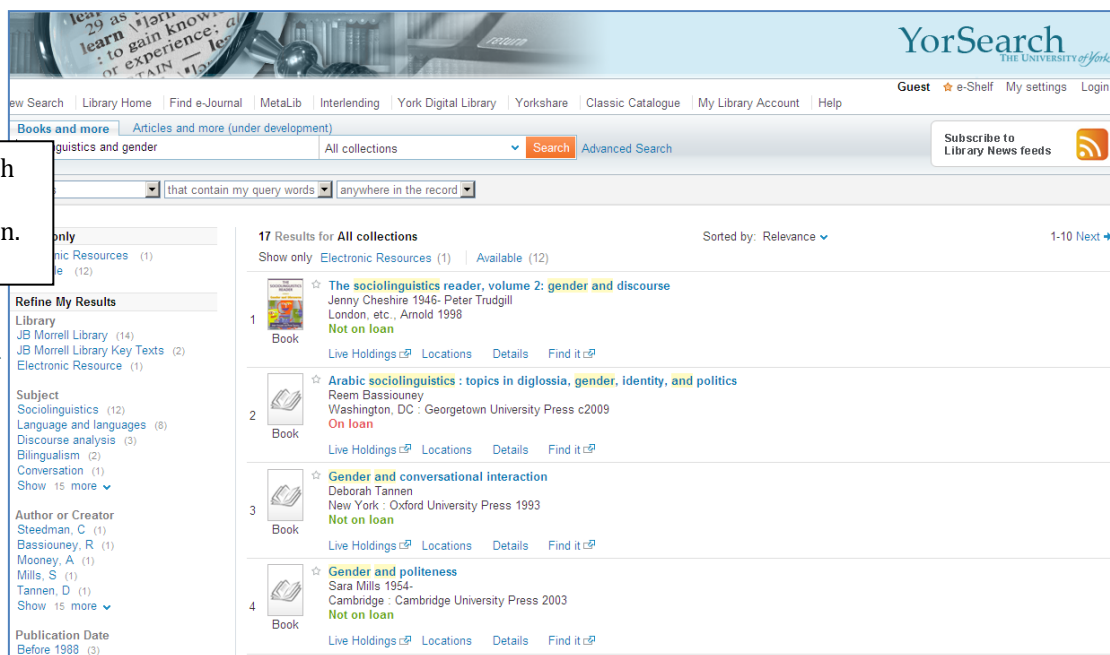
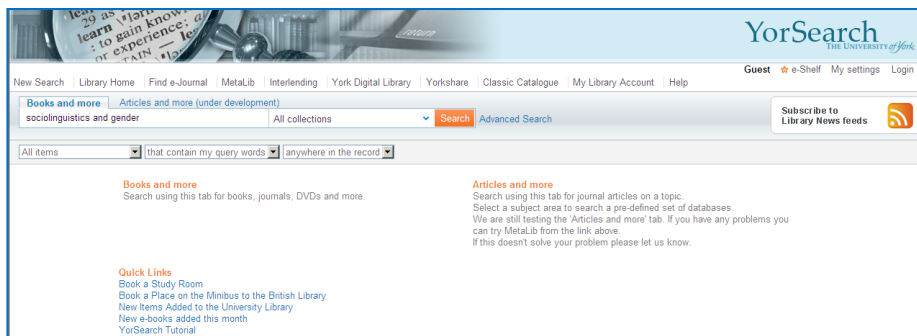


YorSearch provides an efficient way of searching for print and electronic books, journals and other publications. It is a good place to start when you have a topic to research. YorSearch searches the same books, journals, DVDs etc. as the classic catalogue but allows you to search in different ways. YorSearch also searches White Rose Research Online, a shared open-access repository containing full-text research papers

from for the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York, as well as online PhD theses. *Please note that to access an e-book you will need your university login details.*

To access YorSearch, click on the link from the main library homepage (in the Quick Links section) or alternatively navigate directly to YorSearch at: <http://yorsearch.york.ac.uk/>.

Use the search box at the top of the screen to input a specific book title or author, or your subject keywords (e.g. *sociolinguistics and gender*):



Click on the hyperlink for each title to see the full item record. It is particularly important to make a note of the **subject headings** listed. These headings describe what the book is about and allow you to find other books on the same topic by clicking on the hyperlink:

The subject headings for this book are:

Language and Languages – Sex differences
Conversation
Sociolinguistics
Social interaction

The screenshot shows the YorSearch interface with the search results for 'Gender and conversational interaction'. The subject headings are listed as follows:

- Language and languages – Sex differences
- Conversation
- Sociolinguistics
- Social interaction

If a book is on loan and you wish to make a request, you will be taken into the main **Classic Catalogue** which is still available for those who prefer to use it for searching instead:

<http://libcatalogue.york.ac.uk/>.

For **further help** with searching the library catalogue, try the online tutorial available on the main library homepage or on Yorkshire, the University's Virtual Learning Environment.

2. Academic Journals

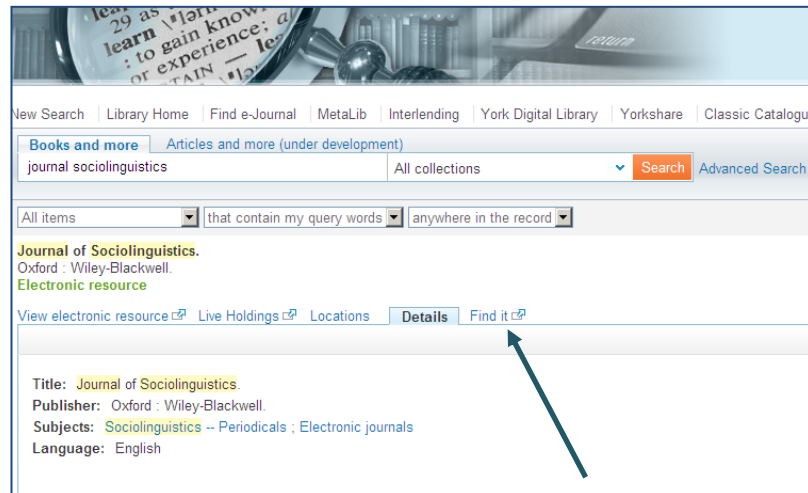
The library subscribes to a number of academic and practitioner journals for Language and Linguistic Science. Our policy now is to buy electronic journals where possible although we do still maintain a small print collection which is housed in the North Rooms on the ground floor of the library. The advantage of using journals is that they provide current, up-to-date research findings.

All our print and electronic journal titles are listed on YorSearch or the library catalogue. Search for journal titles in the same way that you would search for a book using the *Books and more* tab:

The screenshot shows the YorSearch interface with the search results for 'journal of special education'. The 'Books and more' tab is selected, and the search results are displayed. The interface includes a search bar, navigation tabs, and a list of search results.

[Note that there is a separate tab 'Articles and more' for finding journal articles on specific topics. This function is still under development and will be rolled out in 2012. In the meantime, to find journal articles on a specific topic, follow the instructions further down in this section.]

Once you have identified a journal title that you are interested in, click on the hyperlink of the title. This will take you to a screen with details of the library's print holdings and a **Find It** link to navigate through to the full-text journal online, if available. The library uses a system called SFX to organise its online journals. Electronic access may be offered by more than one host service (e.g. SwetsWise or Ingenta). Different host services provide access to a different range of years so you will need to look out for this.



Click on **Go** to access the full-text journal online.

There is a separate listing of all our electronic journals from the main library homepage (*Find e-journal*) or directly at: <http://sfx.york.ac.uk/>.

In order to find **journal articles** on a particular **topic**, you will need to search one of the library **databases** which are available via the **MetaLib** gateway: <http://metalib.york.ac.uk/>.



The databases on MetaLib allow you to put in your search terms and retrieve articles from a range of journals. MetaLib is organised by subject and there is a specific section for **Linguistics** listing all relevant databases.

Please note that there may be databases in other subject areas such as English, Law, Medicine and Psychology which may be worth exploring as well.

There are various relevant journal databases for Language and Linguistic Science including:

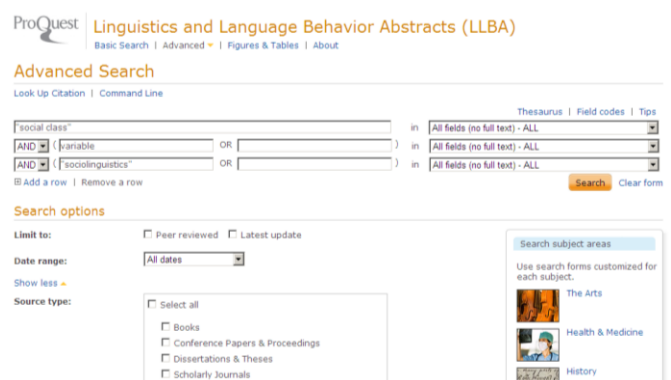
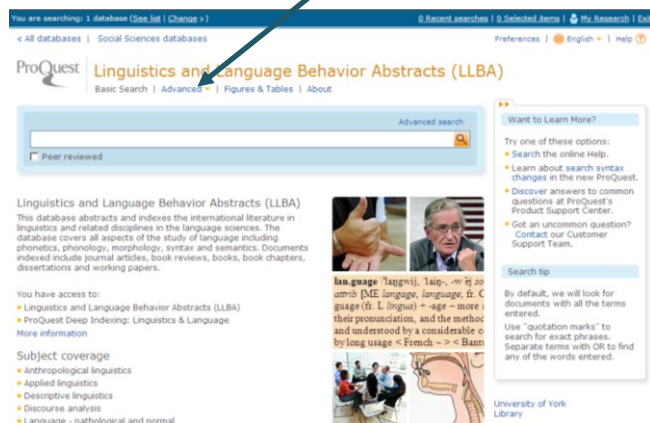
- **JSTOR**: an online archive of selected full-text humanities journals (not including the last five years)
- **AMED** (Allied and Complementary Medicine): useful for those studying Clinical Linguistics;
- **British Education Index** and **ERIC**: two databases that index resources relating to language education;
- **CINAHL**: indexes journals in the area of nursing and allied health. Useful for those studying Clinical Linguistics;
- **Criminal Justice Abstracts**: useful for those studying forensic linguistics;
- **MLA International Bibliography**: includes bibliographic records pertaining to literature, language, linguistics, and folklore;
- **Web of Science**: a large multi-disciplinary database of articles covering a range of subjects.

The KEY database for journal articles in Language and Linguistic Science is:

- **Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts (LLBA)** – a major source of information for language, linguistics and related topics, accessible via the ProQuest platform. The database indexes books, book reviews and over 1,250 journals in these fields from 1973 onwards.

There are separate ProQuest help guides available on the VLE and the library subject pages for Language and Linguistic Science. These quick tips may also be useful:

- To access the LLBA, go to the Linguistics section on MetaLib and click on the link for the database. You will need to select the LLBA again from the list of ProQuest databases on the initial screen. Once you are in the LLBA, make sure that you use the **Advanced** search screen as this will allow you to focus your search and combine different keywords.



- When you have found an article that looks useful, make a note of the **subject headings** assigned to that article. These headings will help you find articles in the database on the same topic, and are often active links so you can click on them to retrieve a set of results or add them to your search strategy. Click on the Find It box to access the full-text article where available. **Find it**

Another place to look for **journal articles** on a particular topic is:



You can use Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.co.uk/>) to search specifically for academic-type material such as journal articles, peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports. Google Scholar will retrieve information from a range of sources including: academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities.

When you use a campus-networked PC, Google Scholar will automatically link to the University of York library catalogue so that you can check library holdings. Where the library has a subscription to the full-text electronic version of a journal article, a link will take you directly to that article. If you are using a PC off campus, it is possible to set your preferences within Google Scholar so that you can still see these links. To do this:



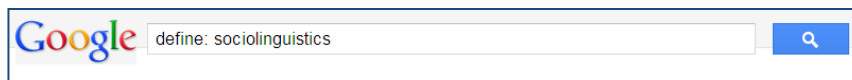
- Go to Scholar Preferences (link from the cog on the top right-hand corner of the main Google Scholar homepage);
- Type **University of York** in the 'Library links' section and tick the box to select it;
- Click on **Save Preferences**.



TIP: Use the Advanced search screen on Google Scholar to focus your search with specific dates, authors, keywords etc.

3. Reference works and dictionaries

Before you start any searching, it is important to make sure that you understand any linguistic-specific terminology e.g. what is an "ING-variable". If you want to do a quick search for a linguistics definition, you can use the **define:** feature on Google although be aware that this search will generate lots of hits and not all of them will be authoritative:



For more scholarly resources, try using the following MetaLib resources which are all accessible via the Linguistics section on MetaLib:

- **Oxford English Dictionary (OED) Online** – allows you to search on words, definitions, etymology and quotations. The timeline illustrates the development of the usage and meanings of words over time.



- **Oxford Language Dictionaries Online** – access to French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish and Chinese dictionaries.
- **Oxford Reference Online: Premium Collection** – a fully-indexed and cross-searchable database of over 100 dictionaries, companions, language reference and subject reference works published by Oxford University Press. Includes the Oxford Dictionary of Grammar and the Concise Oxford Dictionary of Linguistics.

4. Newspapers

Newspapers provide current opinion and debate and can be an interesting way of examining how language is used in contemporary society. Remember that articles are written by journalists rather than educationalists so you need to be aware of potential bias and lack of objectivity.

Many major newspapers have websites although they do not generally provide free access to past editions. York students have access to full-text newspaper articles via **Nexis UK**, a major full-text database of British and International newspapers. To access Nexis UK, go to the Newspapers section of MetaLib.

5. Conference proceedings and papers

These are an important way of finding current research on your topic, as well as identifying who the major academics and researchers are in your field. To find conference papers, try searching Zetoc: (<http://zetoc.mimas.ac.uk/>).

For Language-specific conferences, try the Language Conferences Worldwide website: (<http://www.conferencealerts.com/language.htm>). Alternatively look directly on the websites of major research organisations and bodies e.g. the British Association for Applied Linguistics: (http://www.baal.org.uk/mo_ling_confs.html).



6. Theses and dissertations

The library holds all the University's PhD and M.Phil theses. Masters theses for the previous six years are also retained for certain subjects. The library is currently trialling a project to digitise all theses. Further information is available at: <http://www.york.ac.uk/library/collections/theses/>

These pages also provide direct links to:

- **ETHOS** which is a service provided by the British Library to digitise and make available UK PhD theses in PDF format;
- **Index to Theses** (British and Irish) with abstracts;
- **Other theses databases** available via MetaLib.

7. Websites

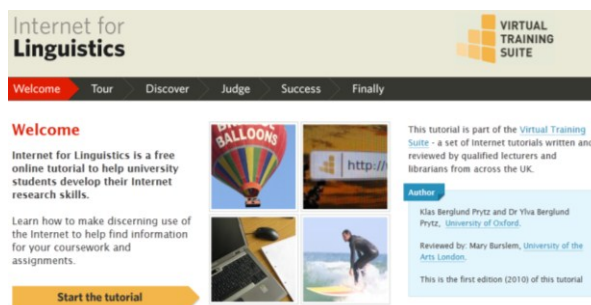
The amount of information on the Internet is already huge and growing rapidly all the time. Search engines such as Google can be helpful in some instances but have limitations for scholarly research. You will need to plan your searches carefully and precisely to avoid obtaining too many results.

Use **professional and organisational websites**, for example:
British Association for Applied Linguistics (<http://www.baal.org.uk/>)

Also use the links on the library subject webpages for Language and Linguistic Science:
<http://www.york.ac.uk/library/subjectresources/languageandlinguistics/>

These links include a number of sites recommended by staff and students in the department including sites for individual modern languages (French, German and Spanish) and others of general interest to all linguistics students e.g. **Google n-grams** (for analysing usage of words over time): <http://books.google.com/ngrams>

There is also an excellent online tutorial to searching the Internet for Linguistics (don't be put off by the long URL!): <http://www.vtstutorials.co.uk/Content/ContentDetail.aspx?q=CAF21019-1360-419D-BD18-D9E3FC4CBA80>



Make sure you read worksheet 5 to understand how to evaluate websites properly for academic purposes.

8. Corpora

The Department of Language & Linguistic Science is currently working with the library to develop a set of webpages directing students to online corpora – watch this space. In the meantime, the library has purchased a number of corpora over the years from the Linguistic Data Consortium (<http://www ldc.upenn.edu/>) which you are welcome to look at. Please contact the Liaison Librarian directly for login details.

Otherwise there are a number of free websites for corpora which may be of use including:

British National Corpus: <http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/>
Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) from 1990–: <http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/>
Corpus of Historical American English (COHA) from 1810–: <http://corpus.byu.edu/coha/>

Please see the subject pages on the library website for more websites for corpora.