

Linguistics and the library

The USM Library supplies a variety of resources relevant to linguistics. The print holdings (actual printed books and journals) are quite modest, but this is becoming less and less relevant as electronic access improves. Following are some notes about specific resources that may help you find materials specific to your needs.

Finding Books

The majority of the books and journals relevant to linguistics that are held by U Maine System libraries are at the Fogler Library at U Maine, Orono. Like materials owned by the USM Libraries, these materials can be found through the URSUS link on the USM Library site. When you find something you need that is not available at USM, navigate to the page that shows the call number for the specific book you want.

On that screen there is a **Request** button that takes you directly to a page where you can request that that item be sent to USM for your use.

There are also very useful collections of books and journals at the libraries at Bowdoin College in Brunswick and Bates library in Lewiston. The stacks are open at both institutions so USM students (and the general public) are free to use the resources on site. Any materials held at these or other Maine libraries can be found via the Other Library Catalogs link on the Library site. If you use the MaineCat link there for searching these libraries, there will also be a link for requesting an item once you find something you need.

On the Other Library Catalogs page you will also find a link to WorldCat, a database that literally searches worldwide for books and journals. In general, always search for the nearest resources first. But when you can't find something on campus, in the U Maine System, or in Maine, WorldCat is your choice. It also provides links for interlibrary loan requests.

All of these databases (URSUS, MaineCat, and WorldCat) allow you to export listings of materials that you find for use in bibliographies.

The screenshot shows the USM Libraries website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'usm home', 'a-z index', and 'contacts'. Below that, a search bar is visible. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Library Information' with details for Portland, Gorham, and Lewiston-Auburn campuses; 'Research' with links to 'Library Catalog (URSUS)', 'Other Library Catalogs', and 'Indexes & Databases'; 'Services' including 'Information Literacy' and 'Distance Ed'; and 'Collections' with links to 'Government Collections' and 'Special Collections'. A 'Request' button is highlighted in the bottom left. An inset window shows a search result for 'The Menominee language' by Leonard Bloomfield, with a table of locations and call numbers.

LOCATION	CALL NO.	STATUS
ORO stacks	PM1761 .B55	AVAILABLE

Finding Journal Articles

Often, especially for more advanced courses, you will need to find journal articles. In these instances you will need to use various specialized bibliographic databases.

Many of the 200 or so databases the Library has access to can be useful occasionally, but there are four that are of particular value for linguistics: LLBA (Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts), PsychINFO (Psychological Abstracts), MEDLINE (for medical literature), and MLA International Bibliography (sponsored by the Modern Language Association).

By far the most useful of these for linguistics is LLBA. It covers about 1,500 journals from around the world that deal with linguistics or allied areas. It currently (3/07) has listings for about 385,000 articles, books, and other materials, the oldest dating from 1973. It has a very useful list of subject categories that can be particularly valuable in finding the most relevant recent work on a particular topic. Pretty much all topics that come up in linguistics will be represented in the LLBA database.

PsycINFO is most useful for finding literature on aspects of psycholinguistics (language processing in adults, language acquisition, speech and hearing disorders, reading, and reading disorders).

MEDLINE is most helpful relative to studies pertaining to neurolinguistics (aphasia, dementia, dyslexia).

The MLA International Bibliography may sometimes pick up studies in literature or composition that touch on linguistic issues that would not be covered in LLBA.

A non-library resource that is very valuable for some purposes is Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com>). This is designed primarily for doing searches for work by specific individuals. It provides an indication of how often a found item is cited on the web and can be an excellent way to locate sites where you can find PDF files of slides used in conferences, working papers, class notes, and a variety of other useful materials.

