

How to Find German Materials

General searching techniques

- When doing *keyword* searches, try both the English and German words.
- Try searching the adjective form of countries (e.g., German as well as Germany)
- Truncate the country name (e.g., German* for Germany, German, etc.)
- Use **Boolean Keyword** searching (AND, OR) to search for forms of the country's name (using OR) and
- combine it with some aspect of that country in which you are interested:
- EXAMPLE: (Switzerland or Swiss) and politics
- Architecture and (Austria or Austrian)
- When searching by title, don't include initial articles (der, die, das, ein, eine...)
- When searching for compound names (e.g., Johann Wolfgang von Goethe), try searching the name in various
- forms (e.g., whole name "von Goethe" but also just "Goethe")

1. Searching for books (also dvds, recordings, etc.) in the Library catalog

NOTE: To limit to items in German, click on **Advanced** search tab, then select "German" from the dropdown menu next to Language

- For works about Germans, German culture, literature, etc., click on **Subject** search tab and type in the following terms (allows you to browse all subjects beginning with those terms):
 - German American [Germans in the U.S.]
 - Pennsylvania Dutch [Pennsylvania Dutch or Amish living in PA]
 - Pennsylvania German [for the language spoken by Amish et al.]
 - German [anything German; retrieves many books and other materials]
- For genres of German literature (both anthologies of it and materials about it), click on **Subject** search tab and type
 - subject headings "German poetry", "German drama", etc. (Note: This will bring up materials in both English and German.)
- You can also search for German American literature
- Also, search literature of specific German-speaking countries: Austrian literature, Swiss literature, etc.
- **For DVDs and videos** that the German department has ordered, click on **Subject** search tab and type in: "Modern languages (Media)-German"

2. Searching for books (also dvds, recordings, etc.) in WorldCat

- WorldCat is an excellent resource for materials in any language that we may not have but that you can order through Interlibrary Loan
- Use the same keywords, subject headings, and strategies you use in the Library's catalog (see above).
- Searching keywords and phrases in WorldCat may help you find articles or chapters listed in contents notes.

3. Searching for articles

- Select a database by clicking on “Find...Articles/Databases and Subject Guides”
Depending on the topic, many databases could produce useful information.

However, here a couple that are generally used:

- *MLA Bibliography* (for language and literature)
- *DigiZeitschriften* (for German academic articles)
- *SocIndex* (for culture and ethnographic research), includes many core journals.
- *Columbia International Affairs Online* (for politics)
- *Communication and Mass Media Complete* (for German popular culture, film, etc.)]

4. Journals in German available at Messiah

In the Library catalog, a **Boolean Keyword** search for “Deutsche and Periodicals” results many German language periodicals which are available in databases available from the Library home page. Also try doing a Subject search for “Modern Languages (Periodicals)” (by clicking on **Subject** search tab).