ENCyclopediaS

A well-written encyclopedia article can identify important editions, translations, commentaries, and criticism.

Extensive encyclopedia with comprehensive coverage of people, places, events, and themes on the Greek and Roman worlds from the prehistory of the Aegean (2nd millennium BCE) to late antiquity (600-800 CE).

ebook, connect via OBIS (7 vols.)
Essays cover history, literature, philosophy, science, daily life, myth, religion, art, and archaeology. Each entry provides relevant primary sources and a bibliography of secondary works.


A Companion to Greek Literature. Chichester, West Sussex: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2015.
e-book, connect via OBIS.
Essays provide an introduction to the wide range of texts and genres produced in the Greek language from the 6th century BCE up to the early years of the Byzantine Empire.

See Ch. 5 “Greek Inscriptions as Historical Writing;” Ch. 6 “Early Greek Poetry as/and History;” and Ch. 7 “The Rise of Greek Historiography and the Invention of PRose.”

LITERARY REFERENCE SOURCES

Literature Resource Center (product from Gale Cengage Learning)
Literary Reference Center Plus (product from EBSCO)
These two databases provide biographical, bibliographical, and critical content on literary figures and their works from all time periods and genres. Information comes from reference works, books, and literary journals. Included are biographies, plot summaries, journal articles, reviews, and more. Connect from Databases tab in the Library home page search box, or use the Quick Links drop-down menu.

e-book, Main Reference PA3002.A5 1982
A collection of informative essays meant to encourage readers to delve further into the lives and works of classical Greek and Roman writers; bibliographies include a list of English translations, editions in the original Greek or Latin, and important modern works. A 24-pp. overview essay on Plato is included.
SELECTED LANGUAGE DICTIONARIES

Main Reference PA445.E5 L6 1996

Main Library PA267.A4 1987

FINDING BOOKS AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS

OBIS is the Oberlin College Library’s online catalog; it lists most library materials. Online borrowing is available through the OhioLINK Library Catalog, which combines the holdings of 120 libraries at Ohio colleges and universities, and through SearchOhio, which does the same for 28 Ohio public library systems. All three catalogs are searchable by Author or Title for a specific author or work, or by Subject Heading or Keyword for works about a topic, person, place, etc.

Search for names as both AUTHOR (for writings by people) and SUBJECT (for writings about people and their works).

Plato (author search) Plato (subject search)
Plato. Apology
Plato -- Criticism and interpretation
Plato -- Dictionaries

Alternative tip for finding translations: limit search results by language = English

To find specific works, commentaries, or works on a theme, also try keyword searches combining the author’s name and one or more title or subject words:

plato and apology plato and commentar*
plato and works plato and politic*

For dictionaries and grammars, search for “[name of language] language” as a subject, with these sub-headings:

Greek language -- Dictionaries
Greek language -- Dictionaries -- English (bilingual)
Greek language -- Grammar

Which ones are the best?

Besides relying on references included in standard encyclopedias and textbooks, here are some tips to find authoritative, reliable publications:

• look for works published by prominent university presses (Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard, Michigan, Chicago, etc.) or scholarly academic publishers (Brill, de Gruyter, etc.)
• limit by date to filter your search results to more recent publications
• look for works that have come out in multiple editions
• look for works written by prominent scholars

IMPORTANT SERIES

The Loeb Classical Library from Harvard University Press publishes works of Greek and Latin literature with texts and accurate and literate English translation on facing pages. Included are epic and lyric poetry; tragedy and comedy; history, travel, philosophy, and oratory; the great medical writers and mathematicians; the Church fathers. The editors provide substantive introductions as well as essential critical and explanatory notes and selective bibliographies.
The Oxford Classical Texts from Oxford University Press publishes texts without commentary, but with brief critical notes at the foot of each page. There are now over a hundred volumes, representing the greater part of classical Greek and Latin literature. New volumes are still being published to fill the remaining gaps, and to revise old editions in the light of recent research.

Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics from Cambridge University Press publishes texts and commentaries on works of Greek and Latin literature aimed primarily at undergraduate and graduate students. Almost one hundred volumes have been published to date. The commentaries discuss texts as works of literature and provide guidance to students.

Penguin Classics from Penguin Books, a subsidiary of Penguin Random House, publishes English translations of "classics" from all languages, genres, and time periods, including the Classical era. Translations often strive to convey more of a lucid and eloquent English prose translation, rather than providing a literal translation of the original.

BROWSING THE LIBRARY STACKS

Library of Congress Classification System

CLASS P - LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
  SUBCLASS PA - Greek language and literature. Latin language and literature

| PA1 199         | Classical philology | PA3825 3849 | Aeschylus |
| PA201 899       | Greek philology and language | PA3851 3858 | Aesop |
| PA1000 1179     | Medieval and modern Greek language | PA3890 3926 | Aristotle |
| PA2001 2915     | Latin philology and language | PA3949 3964 | Demosthenes |
| PA3000 3049     | Classical literature | PA3973 3992 | Euripides |
| PA3050 4505     | Greek literature | PA4018 4209 | Homer |
| PA3051 3285     | Literary history | PA4279 4333 | Plato |
| PA3300 3516     | Collections | PA4367 4389 | Plutarch |
| PA3520 3564     | Criticism, interpretation, etc. | PA4413 4434 | Sophocles |
| PA3601 3681     | Translations | PA4452 4486 | Thucydides |
| PA3818 4505     | Individual authors including: | PA4494 4499 | Xenophon |

Dewey Decimal System

480  Hellenic languages; classical Greek
481  Classical Greek writing & phonology
482  Classical Greek etymology
483  Classical Greek dictionaries
485  Classical Greek grammar
487  Preclassical & postclassical Greek
488  Classical Greek usage

WEB SITES

The Perseus Digital Library. Maintained by the Classics Department, Tufts University. http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/
An open-source project that covers the history, literature, and culture of the Greco-Roman world; provides a large database of Greek and Latin texts and translations, images (coins, vases, sculpture), resources for textual studies, and English word searches of the texts (don’t expect to find modern editions still under copyright).

“...a research program at the University of California, Irvine. Founded in 1972 the TLG has collected and digitized most literary texts written in Greek from Homer to the fall of Byzantium in AD 1453. Its goal is to create a comprehensive digital library of Greek literature from antiquity to the present era.” --TLG website

Includes The Online Liddell-Scott-Jones Greek-English Lexicon and other useful resources.

Electronic Resources for Classicists. Maintained by Maria Pantelia, Professor of Classics, University of California, Irvine.

http://stephanus.tlg.uci.edu/index/resources.html

A meta-site of internet resources for classical studies; categories included: gateways, large databases, projects, electronic journals, bibliographical indices and bibliographies, collection of images, course materials, professional organizations, e-text archives, classics departments, publishers, online courses, and K-12 resources.

Internet Sacred Text Archive.

http://www.sacred-texts.com

A “freely available archive of electronic texts about religion, mythology, legends and folklore, and occult and esoteric topics.” Texts are presented in English translation and, in some cases, the original language. Some Greek texts are included in the Classics section (don’t expect to find modern editions still under copyright).

GUIDE TO REFERENCE MATERIALS IN CLASSICAL STUDIES


Main Reference Z7016.J4 2006

Focuses on “bibliographical and information resources, not on general scholarship in the field.”

HOW TO GET HELP AT THE LIBRARY

Drop-in help at the Research Desk. Just stop by and tell us what you need

Monday–Thursday: 10am–noon, 1–5pm, & 7pm–midnight
Friday: 10am–noon & 1–5pm
Weekend: Sat.: 2–4 pm, Sunday: 1–5pm & 7 pm–midnight

IM. Chat online with a member of Oberlin’s reference staff (ObieRef) – hours same as above

Phone. 440-775-5031 – hours same as above

Email. reference@oberlin.edu – any time

Research appointment. Sign up online

Oberlin College Library. CHC, 10/16