



GUIDES

Guide to French Literature. By A. Levi. Chicago; London: St. James, 1992-1994. 2 Volumes.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PQ41 .L48 1992]

An excellent starting point for information and criticism on novels, poetry, plays, and other genres. Major works are summarized. Includes biographical information and bibliographic references.

A Guide to French Literature: From Early Modern to Postmodern.
By J. Birkett and J. Kearns. New York: St. Martin's, 1997.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PQ305 .B524]

This one-volume guide provides an overview of themes and trends in studies related to French literature from the Renaissance to modern times. Each chapter is divided into periods and further subdivided into literary genres. A final chapter treats fringe groups including women, la francophonie au Quebec, Maghreb, Caribbean etc.

A History of French Literature: From Chanson de Geste to Cinema. By David Coward. London: Blackwell Publishers, 2002.
[Robarts Library and Victoria College, Pratt Library – PQ103. C67]
[Trinity College Reference Area – PQ103. C67]

This lively, readable, yet scholarly overview of 'popular' literature (eg. the best seller, humorous writing, the bande dessinée) is most useful for those already possessing some familiarity with the subject. At 606 pages, this guide links the development of literature to the mentalities and social conditions which produced it, exploring topics such as the socio-economic context of writing, the conditions of publishing, the status of authors, censorship, and popular reading and writing.

A Survey of French Literature. By Morris Bishop and Kenneth T. Rivers. Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing, 2005. 5 Volumes.
[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PQ305 .T39 2004]

This 5-volume set lets you browse basic details about the upper-crust of French literature from the Middle Ages through the late 20th Century. The volumes consist of: *The Middle Ages and the Sixteenth Century*; *The Seventeenth Century*; *The Eighteenth Century*; *The Nineteenth Century*; and *The Twentieth Century*. With illustrations, selections from French texts, background information, timelines, footnotes and bibliographies, this set provides an excellent historical overview of French literature. Although there are no indexes, each volume's contents page is thorough.

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Paths to Contemporary French Literature. By John Taylor. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Transaction Publishers, 2005.
[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PQ305 .T39 2004]

Comprising more than 40 introductory essays on contemporary French writers (such as Yves Bonnefoy, Nathalie Sarraute, Georges Perec, Roland Barthes and Marie Redonnet), this guide will help anyone seeking a broad overview of French literature from the 20th Century onwards. Don't look for biographical details here (though some exist), as the articles focus more on the works than the writers. The guide contains bibliographies of the writers' works.

BRIEF REFERENCE

The New Oxford Companion to Literature in French. Edited by P. France. Oxford, [England]: Clarendon Press: New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PQ41 .N48]

The *Companion* is an excellent introductory guide to authors, works, history, and concepts in French and Francophone literature. Longer articles are accompanied by bibliographies.

Dictionnaire des écrivains de langue française. By Jean-Pierre de Beaumarchais, Daniel Couty and Alain Rey. Paris: Larousse, 2001. 2 Volumes.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PQ41 .B4 2001]

Use this work to find introductory articles about French-language writers, their works, and the movements they spawned (e.g. surrealism). Besides a thorough index in the 2nd volume, this set contains novel summaries and charts showing the development of writers' works alongside their lives. One downside to these entries is they contain no bibliographies.

Le Dictionnaire du Littéraire. By Paul Aron. Paris : Presses Universitaires de France, 2002.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PN41. D486 2002]

A dictionary treating major genres, institutions, critical concepts, and questions of esthetics of more prominent francophone groups (e.g. Belgium, France, Quebec, Switzerland etc.).

Dictionnaire Mondial des Littératures. Pascal Mougin. Paris: Larousse, 2002.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PN41. D4875 2002]

A wide-ranging work with an international scope, this dictionary contains entries on past and present authors, genres, literary movements, countries and periods.

Dictionnaire des Littératures de Langue Française. By J.P. Beaumarchais Paris: Bordas, 1987. 4 Volumes.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PQ41 .B4]

A comprehensive guide to literatures from France, Africa, Canada and the Caribbean. Entries span criticism, genres, themes, periods, and authors. Detailed bibliographies accompany author entries.

Dictionnaire des Œuvres du XXe Siècle: Littérature Française et Francophone. Edited by H. Mitterand. Paris: Dictionnaires Le Robert, 1995.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PQ305 .D53]

This work provides concise entries of analysis, criticism, and bibliography on French and international literary works and movements of the 20th century.

Feminist Encyclopedia of French Literature. By E. Martin Sartori, editor-in-chief. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1999.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PQ149 .F47]

The Feminist Encyclopedia of French Literature is a compendium of biographic and bibliographic information on women novelists, diarists, travelers, and political figures from the Middle Ages to the modern era, who lived and worked in France. All articles are signed by individual authors and provide related primary and secondary sources.

HISTORIES AND CHRONOLOGIES

Jalons Pour Un Dictionnaire Des Oeuvres Littéraires De Langue Française Des Pays Du Maghreb. Edited by Ambroise Kom. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2006.

[Robarts 13th Floor Stacks – PQ3988.5 N6 J35 2006]

A Short History of French Literature. By Sarah Kay, Terence Cave, and Malcolm Bowie. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PQ119 .K39 2003]

Get hold of this compact book if you're looking for lengthy but general essays introducing the history of French literature from the Middle Ages to the present. The essays are organized into 3 periods: **before 1470**, **1470-1789**, and **1789-2000**; each subdivides into such topics as *Courtliness and the rise of romance* (before 1470), *Outlines of the Novel* (1470-1789) and *Gide and Proust* (1789-2000). The contents page lists all the subtopics. A further plus is a lengthy bibliographic essay (*Suggestions for Further Reading*, p. 317).

A New History of French Literature. Edited by D. Hollier. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1989.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PQ 119 .N48]

This volume of short essays covers key historical events and themes in French literature and culture from the 770s to the 1980s. Maps and a chronological table enhance this publication.

A Literary History of France. Edited by P.E. Charvet. London: E. Benn, 1967. 5 Volumes.

[Victoria College, Pratt Library – PQ103 .L5]

This five volume set covers French literature from the Middle Ages to 1940. The focus of the series is on general trends and individual authors.

Littérature Française. Paris : Arthaud, 1970 – 1978. 16 Volumes.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PQ101 .L5]

Littérature covers Francophone literature and culture from the Middle Ages to 1960. Each volume examines the political, social and economic climate of the period along with literary movements and prominent authors. A chronological table, author dictionary, and reproductions of contemporary art, supplement this set. The bibliography is dated.

La Littérature Française. By H. Lemaître and others. Paris: Bordas-Laffont, 1970-72. 5 volumes.

[Victoria College, Pratt Library – PQ 101 .L4 (v.1-5)]

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PQ101 .L4 (v.1-3 only)]

This multi-volume set offers brief chapters which bring together literary history, critical analysis and bibliography of French literature from the Middle Ages to the 1970s.

Histoire de la Littérature Française du Moyen Age à la Belle Epoque. Edited by P. Guth. Paris: Éditions du Rocher, 1992.
[Robarts Library – PQ101 .G8]

Essays on French authors and literary movements, arranged by century.

AUTHORS

Dictionnaire des Ecrivains de Langue Française. Paris: Larousse, 2001. 2 Volumes.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PQ41 .B4 2001]

A detailed two volume resource for biographical information on French language writers. Includes chronological tables, synopses of major literary works, and a title/reference index.

Le Robert des grands écrivains de langue française. Edited by Philippe Hamon and Denis Robert Vasselin. Paris: Dictionnaires Le Robert, 2000.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PQ41 .R53 2000]

Look here for entries containing a range of key information on established French writers (e.g. Montaigne and Prevert): biographies, introductory essays, lists of works, selected critical quotations, plot summaries, and bibliographies. The entries are organized alphabetically (e.g. Camus comes before Rousseau). Some entries include a separate “Audio & Video” bibliography. Since the focus is on great French writers, contemporary authors, as one might expect, get short shrift.

Le Robert des Grands Ecrivains de Langue Française. Edited by P. Hamon and D. Roger Vasselin. Paris: Dictionnaires Le Robert, 2000.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PQ41 .R53]

Entries offer an analysis of 150 French writers from varied theoretical perspectives, through a brief biography, selected quotations, and an up-to-date bibliography.

Le Nouveau Dictionnaire des Auteurs de Tous les Temps et de Tous les Pays. Edited by J. Brosse. Nouvelle édition. Paris : R. Laffont, c1994. 3 Volumes.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PN456 .N68 1994]

Biographies of “creators of culture” – authors, poets, philosophers, historians, and men of science – born before 1951. All entries are signed and include a bibliography, a list of works, and a discussion of the author's importance to the world of culture.

French Women Writers: a Bio-Bibliographic Source Book. Edited by Eva Martin Sartori and Dorothy Wynne Zimmerman. New York: Greenwood, 1991.
[Robarts 4th Floor Reference Area – PQ149 .F73]

This resource considers the lives of significant women in the history of French literature. Entries are arranged chronologically and provide a discussion of literary trends as they relate to women.

Dictionnaire des Littératures. Edited by Philippe van Tieghem and Pierre Josserand. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1968. 3 Volumes.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PN41 .V26]

Although dated, this 3-volume set is handy for finding French language entries on both French and International writers. Use these volumes to get brief biographies on historical authors. For contemporary authors, try the **Dictionnaire des Ecrivains de Langue Française.**

Dictionnaire Encyclopédique de la Littérature Française. Paris: Laffont-Bompiani, 1999.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PQ41 .D54 1999]

You'll find more than 700 entries in this cramped little book. Though hard on the eyes, this dictionary provides summaries for about 350 literary works, along with entries on authors, literary movements (Surrealisme) and genres (e.g. comedie). The work will be most useful when you can't find entries elsewhere (e.g. in **Le Robert des grands écrivains de langue française**). While the book's strength is its range, its weakness is its lack of depth.

LITERARY TERMS AND THEORY

The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism. Edited by M. Groden and M. Kreiswirth. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994.
[Available online: http://www.press.jhu.edu/books/hopkins_guide_to_literary_theory/]
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PN81 .J54 1994]

An excellent resource, this guide provides articles and bibliographies on theorists, movements and schools. French literary theory is covered from the 17th century to modern times.

A Glossary of Contemporary Literary Theory. By Jeremy Hawthorne. London: Arnold, 2000.
[Victoria College, Pratt Library – PN 44.5 .H37 2000]
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PN44.5 .H37 1998]

A *Glossary* is a dictionary of terminology in the field of critical theory. Entries are concise. The opening "Using the Glossary" offers a broad bibliography on specific movements.

FINDING JOURNAL ARTICLES

To find articles in scholarly journals, the best place to go is an article database. To find articles related to your subject area, go to www.library.utoronto.ca/, click the *Subjects A to Z* link, and scroll down to your subject area (i.e. *French Studies*). Click GO. You'll find a list of databases containing scholarly articles, as well as other online resources such as encyclopedias and research guides.

MLA International Bibliography. 1963 – present.
[Available online for UofT use: <http://www.library.utoronto.ca>
Search the Catalogue for *MLA*. Then limit on the left to Online Resources.]

This bibliography indexes materials on modern languages and literature since 1963. Coverage of French literature and literary topics such as history and theory is extensive.

FRANCIS. 1984 – present.
[Available online for UofT use: <http://www.library.utoronto.ca>
Search the Catalogue for *Francis*. Then limit on the left to Online Resources.]

This multilingual index points you to journal articles, books, conference papers, reports, and other materials published since 1984. Most of the sources for French literature are in French.

Years's Work in Modern Language Studies. London: Modern Humanities Research Association.
[Robarts 4th Floor Reference Area – PB1. Y45]

An annual bibliography with lengthy essays summarizing the past year's scholarship in European and Latin American languages and literatures.

Repère. 1980 – present.
[Available online: <http://repere.sdm.qc.ca/>]

While coverage of scholarly sources is limited, *Repère* is still a useful resource for locating reviews and criticism of French authors from French-language journals published since 1980. Full-text articles are available from 40 journals.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Critical Bibliography of French Literature. Edited by D.C. Cabeen. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1947-1985. 6 Volumes.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PQ103 .C75]

An exhaustive, annotated bibliography of books, dissertations and articles related to French literature from the Medieval period to the 20th century. Each volume is period specific with entries arranged by genre and author.

Manuel Bibliographique de la Littérature Française du Moyen Age. By R. Bossuat. Melun: Librairie d'Argences, 1951.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – Z2172 .B7]

Manuel focuses on books, articles, and dissertations on pre-1500 French literature.

Répertoire des Plus Anciens Textes en Prose Française, Depuis 842 Jusqu'aux Premières Années de XIIIe Siècle. By B. Woledge. Geneva: Droz, 1964.
[Robarts Library – Z2174 .F4W8]

Répertoire provides a title listing of French prose to 1210, with date, manuscript, published editions, and secondary sources noted.

Manuel de Bibliographie Littéraire Pour les XVIe, XVIIe et XVIIIe Siècles Française. By J. Giraud.
[1921 – 1935: Robarts 4th Floor Reference Area – Z2171 .G52]
[1936 – 1945: Robarts 4th Floor Reference Area – Z2171 .G53]
[1946 – 1955: St. Michael's 2nd Floor – Z2171 .G5]

This work indexes books and periodical articles related to French literature from the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, published between 1946 and 1955. Includes a name and title index.

French 17: An Annual Descriptive Bibliography of French Seventeenth Century Studies. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1954 –
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PQ240 .M6]

This annotated bibliography summarizes articles, books, papers, and reviews on topics related to 17th century French studies. Topics include the history of the book, literary history and criticism, authors and personages, and current research.

Nineteenth-Century French Fiction Writers. Edited by C. Savage Brosman. Detroit: Gale Research, 1992.
[Trinity Library – PN41 .D46]

This series has two excellent volumes on French literature titled *Romanticism and Realism*, 1800-1860 (v. 119) and *Naturalism and Beyond*, 1860-1900 (v. 123). Each source provides detailed biographical, critical, and bibliographic information on famous 19th century French writers.

French VII Bibliography* and *French XX Bibliography. Modern Language Association. New York: French Institute, 1949 – 1969.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PQ305 .F74]

These annual bibliographies list current books and articles that provide critical or biographical information relating to 20th century French literature. Includes a cumulative author index.

FINDING BOOK REVIEWS

Bulletin Critique du Livre Français. Paris. no 1- juil./oct. 1945 – present.
[Robarts Library – Z 2165 .B924]
[Media Commons, Robarts Library 3rd Floor – Z2165. B924 (CD-ROM)]

A monthly serial of reviews for French texts, annual publications, new editions of French classics, translations, etc. Reviews are arranged by subject. Also available on CD-ROM.

Critique: Revue Générale des Publications Françaises et Etrangères. Paris: Editions de Minuit, 1946 – present.
[(1946 – 1992) St. Michael's 1st Floor Journals Area]
[(1946 – present) Robarts Library – Z1007 .C8]

Critique offers reviews of French language books and periodicals published in France and abroad in the fields of humanities and social sciences. Nine issues appear a year. Includes an annual index.

Revue d'Histoire Littéraire de la France. 6 times/year. Paris: Colin, 1894 –
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Periodicals Area]

The *Revue* publishes extensive articles on French literary history from the 16th to the 20th century. It includes an annual bibliography in every third issue since 1986.

A Year's Work in Modern Language Studies. Modern Humanities Research Association. London : Oxford University Press, 1929/30 –
[Robarts 4th Floor Reference Area – PB1. Y45]

This annually updated critical bibliography provides excellent coverage of ongoing research in language and literature. Chapters on French literature are divided by time period.

ONLINE TEXT ARCHIVES

ABU: La Bibliothèque Universelle

[Available online: <http://abu.cnam.fr>]

ABU includes the texts of 288 French books by 101 major authors.

ARTFL Project (American and French Research on the Treasury of the French Language)

[Available online: <http://artfl-project.uchicago.edu/>]

ARTFL is a searchable resource of roughly 2000 texts, from classic works to a variety of non-fiction prose and technical writing. Genres include novels, verse, journalism, and correspondence from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Texts are in French.

Gallica

[Available online: <http://gallica.bnf.fr/>]

This database from the Bibliothèque nationale (the French national library) includes images and full-text sources related to French literature from the Middle Ages to the 19th century. The database is searchable by author, date, or time period. Both the website and the texts are in French.

Le Rayon Littéraire

[Available online: <http://www.bmlisieux.com/litterature/litterat.htm>]

This site includes fictional and non-fictional works by lesser known French-language authors in the public domain. Bibliographical and biographical information is provided.

Voice of the Shuttle

[Available online: <http://vos.ucsb.edu>]

A structured, annotated online resource, *Voice of the Shuttle* is a gateway with links to primary and secondary sources on the web, in the field of humanities. From the main page, click on “Literature (Other than English)”. Resources are organized by country.