

Some basics about the library and about literary search

This is a plan for a two hours' briefing. It is *not* intended for publishing. (Please don't quote.)

However, you may make use of it whenever you want to, in case you find it useful...

Starting by the homepage

The homepage of the University of Oslo Library:

<http://www.ub.uio.no/uhs/>

Two items of main interest:

Subjects - on the top of the page
and the search field in the middle of the page:
the interface ORIA - our new "discovery" system.

ORIA has a huge coverage, some limitations, and quite a few bugs ...

More about *Subjects* below.

ORIA first:

One piece of advice:

Click on *Search the University Library*

and go immediately to *Advanced Search* (which you will find at the right)

Two main options:

- *Books + articles at UiO* (i.e. University of Oslo - UofO)
Scope: books, chapters, and articles available at UofO
- *Books in Norwegian research libraries*
Scope: Only books but all those owned by *all* university and research libraries of Norway, including the National Library

Searching for **Kjell Magne Yri**

will produce 4 hits

Searching for **Sidamu**

anywhere in the record

(i.e. in all the information accessible to us for each item)

produced 4 hits as well

Searching for "**Noam Chomsky**"

as a phrase anywhere in the record

will produce 17 839 hits,

both titles *by* Noam Chomsky (monographs, chapters, forewords, articles etc.) as well as titles *about* Noam Chomsky and his work (reviews, discussions etc.)

In the left column of the page, you may chose between a number of limitations/conditions for your search.
There is a set of optional basic search criteria to the right of the search fields.

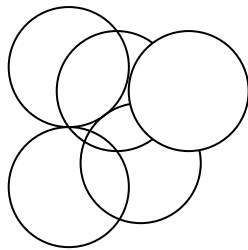
Scope and result

ORIA searches not only book catalogues, but even the results from searches in other, specialised, databases/bibliographies.

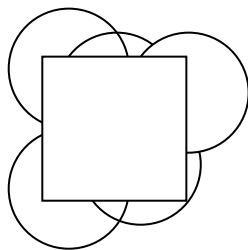
As already mentioned: The coverage is huge.

This, however, comes with a cost. Due to technicalities, related to the different formats of the other databases etc., one can never be completely certain that every possible known source has been properly searched.

The following two rough graphs will illustrate my point:



Imagine the coverage of the specialised databases as sets illustrated as circles. (They overlap because the databases themselves overlap to a great extent.)



A search engine such as the one of ORIA gets hold of most of the content of the specialised databases , here represented by the circles, but not all: As illustrated by the parts of the circles not covered by the square

This is the reason why I prefer to look at ORIA in its discovery function as a *preliminary* tool.

At *your* level - given the quality requirement for a doctoral thesis - it is necessary to proceed to the specialised bibliographies that are at the base of the information ORIA provides. Cf. below.

ORIA as our library catalogue

ORIA is not only a discovery tool, however, but also the interface to the library's book catalogue. It is simply the tool to find out where a given book is localised.

As I have been told that you will not stay here for a long time, I am not going to spend much time on this second - however for us utterly important use of ORIA.

Just the essentials:

All books are classified according to Dewey's decimal system.

400 is language in general
415 syntax
492.8 Ethiopian languages
etc.

One book may be given one or several Dewey codes, depending on its content and its relevance for the library.

The *main* classification code is used as *localisation* (place on the shelf in the open collections).

Additionally, books are classified by the use of reserved words/expressions.
(For the happy few, since it is all in Norwegian.
I can describe it further for those who might be interested ...)

E-books

As you all know, there are quite a number of free *electronic books* out there - of mixed quality.

The library also pay for the access to various books, although not so many within the area of general linguistics.

One example:

Handbook of pragmatics

(Use the conditions provided to the right on top of the search page.

E-books will give you exactly the record you are looking for in this case.)

Access to our electronic resources

This is how it works when you are logged on at UofO premises.

Elsewhere, you have to be logged on your account at the UofO in order to get access. VPN is also an option.

This is essential. If you try to get access to one of these e-books from your home account, in Ethiopia or elsewhere, you will be asked to pay.

Thus, it is of great importance that you arrange with the computer service of the Arts Faculty - *Orakeltjenesten* - how to do this etc.

This also holds for access to bibliographical and other databases and to scientific journals in electronic format.

The editor/provider will not know that *you* belong to an institution that has paid its fee. It/they will only check that your request comes from one of the IP numbers in the UofO span that is a condition of our contract.

One digression: Books vs. chapters and articles

When you find a reference in a bibliographical database, it will basically be either to a book/monograph or to a chapter of a book or an article in a scientific journal.

Since you have to find and look up either the book or for instance the article as a next step, it is important to recognise the format.

Most of you are aware of this difference, of course, but there is always someone who isn't. So, let me just give a brief overview, just in case:

Copi, I. (1971), *The Theory of Logical Types*, London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Epstein, S.D., and Seely, T.D. (eds.) (2002), *Derivation and Explanation in the Minimalist Program*, New York and London: Blackwell.

Frampton, J., and Gutmann, S. (2002), 'Crash-Proof Syntax', in Epstein and Seely 2002: 90-105.

Goodman, N. (1943), 'On the Simplicity of Ideas', *Journal of Symbolic Logic* 14:32-41.

Copi is the sole author of a book.

Epstein and Seely are the editors of a book containing chapters written by others. Technically speaking an anthology. In order to look up an anthology, you have to search by means of the title to be on the safe side, since cataloguing practice may vary, and it is not always possible to search for the editors as "authors", especially not when there are many of them.

Frampton and Gutmann refers to the authors of one chapter in the book edited by *Epstein and Seely*.

Goodman is an article in a scientific journal.

To ORIA or not to ORIA ...

As mentioned above ORIA, is not the only way to search for relevant literature.

Now, how do you access the "primary" bibliographical databases, the specialised bibliographies that ORIA searches for information?

By far the most important bibliographical database for linguists is

MLA - Modern Language Association of America

You will find it by clicking at *Find databases* on the line on top of the search fields. What you get is a search formula in Norwegian. However, the command prompt is fairly transparent: "Finn databaser" simply means 'find databases'. Write "MLA" in the navn field ("navn" means 'name') and click the *SØK* button ("søk" meaning 'search'), then click on *MLA international bibliography* etc.

Title keyword *nordisk* (Use the index function!)
passiv osv.
combined search *norsk + passiv*

ERIC

Another extensive bibliographical database. Important, especially for those who are interested in applied linguistics, bordering to the social sciences.

One useful tool may be

WORLD CAT

which you can use in order to verify bibliographical information, and to see if a book may sit on a shelf in a library close to you.

Unfortunately

There is no single bibliography where you can find everything. A search for relevant literature will always tend to be like looking for the needle in the proverbial haystack. Usually, one has to search in various bibliographies. Unfortunately, a number of interesting books and articles don't appear in any bibliography at all. Especially those from remote area, remote culture etc. That is: Remote from Continental Western Europe and North America.

Databases of the *ISI* type usually contain few titles within linguistics. In any event, everything that is far from English has a tendency to be omitted from such bibliographies. For instance information about Scandinavian and Ethiopian languages.

Correspondingly, letters other than those A-Z usually pose a problem when searching: This is notoriously the case with the additional Scandinavian characters (and for instance the accented French or Portuguese letter as well). Transliteration as in the case of Russian, and in particular less well-known and/or codified languages from a transliteration point of view, such as the Ethiopian languages, represent a different problem.

In sum:

You can't just push a button and get the references you need.
It is a lot of work involved.
And you will have to use your imagination in order to find the right search criteria.

Furthermore

Electronic resources are not the only relevant ones.
You may find valuable information in printed sources.
For instance, our library has quite few printed bibliographies and encyclopaedias, such as these:

DeMiller, Anna L.: 2000, *Linguistics : a guide to the reference literature.*
(*Reference sources in the humanities series*) Englewood, Colo.:

Libraries Unlimited

Einar Haugen et al.: 1974, *A bibliography of Scandinavian languages and linguistics: 1900-1970.* Oslo: Universitetsforlaget

Look for the *Ref3* section at the second floor of the library building - the floor for linguistics, literature etc.

Finally

In linguistics, established bibliographical databases such as the ones mentioned, may be of limited use, especially if one is looking for the very newest information of its kind.

Specialised databases will be of great help.

And, above all, it is important to be aware of the fact that most cutting edge linguistic research is pre-published in various ways on the Internet.

The Buzz

<http://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz>

is a good example.

There are also sites that harvest texts from the Web, more or less without the author's consent, e.g.

<http://citeseer.nj.nec.com/cs>

Other sources: University and research group pages etc.

A number of such resources are listed at our library's *Subjects* pages:

Subjects

See the line just above the picture on the university library's homepage.

Here, you will find a (rather unsystematic) selection of pointers to linguistic resources on the Internet.

The awful truth

You can find a lot of useful information by means of the common search engines, such as *Google* (not only *Google Scholar*), *Yahoo* etc. You have to use your imagination and skill - and above all your ability to be critical.

Appendix

Linguistic journals

https://dbh.nsd.uib.no/publiseringskanaler/KanalTreffliste.action?sok.tittel=&sok.serienummer=&sok.itar=&sok.land=-1&topNSDFag=-1&sok.uhrFagraadId=103&oaDoaj=-1&oaNsd=-1&sok.oaRomeoId=-1&sok.uhrNivaa=2&sok.spraak=-1&kanalType=-1&sok.avansert=true&treffliste.tidsskriftTreffside=1&treffliste.forlagTreffside=1&treffliste.vis=true&__checkbox_bibsys=true

https://dbh.nsd.uib.no/publiseringskanaler/KanalTreffliste.action?oaNsd=-1&sok.avansert=true&oaDoaj=-1&sok.spraak=-1&sok.uhrFagraadId=103&sok.uhrNivaa=1&kanalType=-1&treffliste.vis=true&treffliste.forlagTreffside=1&sok.itar=&sok.land=-1&treffliste.tidsskriftTreffside=1&sok.serienummer=&sok.tittel=&__checkbox_bibsys=true&topNSDFag=-1&sok.oaRomeoId=-1&request_locale=en