

Searching for Reference Sources

1. When to Start

Quite a bit of good stuff has over the years been stolen or otherwise lost from the UCLA libraries. You may have to go with Interlibrary Loan, which takes time. Also, sometimes material has to be recalled from another user, and it takes time for this material to come back to the circulation desk. See below, #7, for more on Interlibrary Loan and recalls.

Due date for listing your target language and a list of references is 2/3/04. Slight revision: when you list your references, please give the source you got them from.

2. Where to Search

- Searching for online material with an **Internet search engine** is an obvious strategy to consider. There seems to be something of a consensus that Google (<http://www.google.com>) is the best search engine.
- Find books on **ORION** and the **California Digital Library**, discussed below.
- **Databases of journal articles**, discussed below.
- The **Rutgers Optimality Archive**, <http://roa.rutgers.edu/>. Several hundred papers that are about, or use, or mention, OT. Phonology predominates.
- And **three traditional items** that are low-rent but useful:
 - Look at what papers cite in their bibliographies
 - Browsing library bookshelves
 - Asking people who might know good references

3. ORION vs. Melvyl

These are the two on-line catalogs at UCLA. **ORION** is found at <http://orion-2.library.ucla.edu> and **Melvyl** is found at <http://melvyl.cdlib.org>, respectively. Here are some advantages/disadvantages of the two:

- Only ORION hooks you up directly with library circulation services.
- CDL helps find books that you could get by interlibrary loan.
- CDL has more databases other than the card catalog.

4. Sample California Digital Library Search: Hausa

Get on the Internet and go to <http://melvyl.cdlib.org>. Choose **Subject** as your search heading. Then when the subject window pops up, try typing various strings, such as:

Hausa language
Hausa language grammar
Hausa language phonology
Hausa language textbooks
Hausa language dictionaries

Click “Submit Search”. It helps to open a word-processing file, so you can copy and paste the best stuff that you’re finding. If the Web formatting is troubling you, try using a primitive word processor like Notepad.

If you’re getting an overwhelming amount of material from your search, try the more specific headings. Also, you can limit your search to material at UCLA by selecting “UC Los Angeles” in the Location window. Another strategy to follow if there’s too much stuff is: go for more recent material; it’s usually but not always of better quality.

In the Hausa search being discussed, I found that searching on “Hausa language grammar” yielded some good things, e.g.

Cowan, J. Ronayne. *Spoken Hausa*. J. Ronayne Cowan, Russell G. Schuh. Ithaca, N.Y. : Spoken Language Services, c1976. 378 p. : ill.; 23 cm.

Series title: Spoken language series

Language: English

UCLA College PL8232 .C838s Stacks

UCLA YRL PL8232 .C838s Stacks URLSTAX-STAX

Abraham, Roy Clive. *The language of the Hausa people* /, R. C. Abraham
London : University of London Press, c1959 236 p. ; 23 cm

Language: English

UCLA YRL PL8232 .A151 Stacks URLSTAX-STAX

When I looked, these were both on the shelf. Naturally, I also browsed the neighboring books in the same region (PL8232).

Books in the YRL are often misshelved. If you can’t find what you were looking for, search in the nearby areas of the shelves. For instance, I found the Abraham book about two feet to the right of where it was supposed to be.

5. MLA Bibliography

Go to <http://melvyl.cdlib.org> and select in turn:

Article databases (upper right corner)

UCLA

MLA Bibliography

This yields journal articles. To find the journals in which the articles appear, click on “Check holdings and locations.”

6. Similar Databases

Try:

- CiteSeer (<http://citeseer.nj.nec.com/cs>)
- Social Science Citation Index: <http://isi3.isiknowledge.com/portal.cgi/wos>
- Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts (go to (<http://melvyl.cdlib.org>, then Article databases, UCLA, pick the letter L, and you’ll find it.)

These work like the MLA Bibliography but have different emphases.

6.1 Connecting to these Databases

Some of the above databases are run by capitalist enterprises, and UC pays for them. This means that you must access them “from UCLA”—meaning, from a UCLA computer, or hooked up by the Internet to a UCLA computer. If your Internet service provider at home is not Bruin Online, you can get around this problem by connecting to a “UCLA Proxy Server”. See <http://www.bol.ucla.edu/services/proxy/> for how to do this. The proxy server also can get you access to journals that UCLA carries in digital form.

7. Some Practical Matters Involving the UCLA Library

7.1 Recall

When you’ve found a book in ORION that’s been checked out to another borrower, you can recall it from them (they get to keep it up to two weeks after they checked it out). To recall, get into ORION, click on

Detailed holdings, Recall, SRLF Request, ORION Express for all items.

and follow the directions from there.

7.2 Interlibrary Loan

Melvyl can tell you about a lot of books not at UCLA, but in California libraries. You can also do an Interlibrary Loan request “cold,” without knowing where the book may be located; experience shows that the UCLA reference librarians can find pretty obscure stuff.

To do Interlibrary Loan from CDL, you have to take down the information about the book, re-find it in ORION, then use ORION to make the Interlibrary Loan request.

7.3 *SRLF Books*

Some books are located in the **Southern Regional Library Facility** (SRLF), a storage library. They can be brought to the Circulation Desk in just one business day (SRLF is located just behind the UCLA dorms), so don't hesitate to request these.

8. Feedback

Let me know useful things you learn in the course of your literature search.