

**SOME GENERAL
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL
WORKS, OF VALUE TO
THE STUDENT OF ENGLISH**

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Some general bibliographical works, of value to the student of English by Andrew Keogh

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ANDREW KEOGH

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL WORKS FOR THE STUDENT OF ENGLISH.

[This list is issued in connection with a lecture on bibliography delivered before the English Club of Yale University. Its chief aim is to give such reference books as are of general use to students of English, but, in order to make the list of more value for its special purpose, bibliographies are also given on a few related topics.]

I. BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES.

J. Petzholdt's *Bibliotheca bibliographica* (Leipzig, 1886), L. Vallée's *Bibliographie des bibliographies* (2 vols., Paris, 1883-87), and H. Stein's *Manuel de bibliographie générale* (Paris, 1897), are all useful. In English the best are G. W. Porter's *List of Bibliographical Works in the Reading Room of the British Museum* (2nd ed., Lond., 1889), and J. L. Whitney's *Handbook for Readers: Bibliographies of Special Subjects in the Boston Public Library* (9th ed., Boston, 1890).

2. GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHICAL WORKS.

W. S. Sonnenschein's *Best Books* (2nd ed., Lond., 1891) is a list of about 50,000 volumes in every department of knowledge, arranged by subjects; it was supplemented in 1894 by the *Reader's Guide*, of almost equal size, bringing the record down to the end of 1893. G. K. Fortescue's *Subject-Index of Modern Works added to the British Museum* is in 3 volumes (1880-85, 1886-90, 1890-95); a fourth (1895-1900) is in preparation.

Printed catalogues of large libraries are good general bibliographies. The *British Museum Catalogue of Printed Books* is now practically completed, and a *Supplement* (to be finished in two years) will bring it down to the end of

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1899; many of the headings (e. g., Bible, Aristotle, Luther, Napoleon, Dante, Shakespeare) have also been issued separately. The French Bibliothèque Nationale has begun the publication of its *Catalogue générale des livres imprimés*, and three volumes (*A-Ari*) have been issued. The catalogues of the Peabody Institute at Baltimore (5 vols., 1883-92; Suppl., 1896-99), and of the Boston Athenæum (5 vols., 1874-82) should be familiar to every student.

Much valuable bibliographical information is contained in *Notes and Queries* (Lond., weekly, 1849 to date); there is a general index to each series of 12 volumes. Each volume of the *Great Writers* series has a careful bibliography by J. P. Anderson of the British Museum.

3. ANNUAL REPORTS AND SUMMARIES.

Annual summaries exist for every great department of knowledge—e. g., the *Jahresbericht der classischen Altertumswissenschaft* (1873-99), *d. Germanischen Philologie* (1879-98), *d. Romanischen Philologie* (1890-96), *d. Geschichtswissenschaft* (1878-98); the *Jahrbuch für Nationalökonomie und Statistik* (1863-1900); the *Pädagogischer Jahresbericht* (1885-1889); etc.

4. BOOKS PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES.

The *United States Catalog* (Minneapolis, 1900) is an author-list of books in print, 1899; it has a title-index, but no subject-index. It is supplemented by the monthly *Cumulative Book Index* (Minnp., 1898 to date), which is an author-, title-, and subject-list of new publications; as each issue incorporates that of the previous month, it is necessary to look in but one place for any book of the year. The *American Catalog* (N. Y., 1880) gives a list of books in print and for sale on July 1st, 1876. Supplements cover the years 1876-84, 1884-90, 1890-95, 1895-1900. The *Annual American Catalog* (N. Y., 1886-1900) is cumulated from the *Publishers' Weekly* (N. Y., 1872 to date), which is the

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original record at the foundation of American trade-bibliography. The *Publishers' Weekly* also cumulates its entries quarterly. The *Publishers' Trade List Annual* (N. Y., 1873-1900) is a collection of publishers' catalogues arranged alphabetically by firm-names; fuller titles and descriptions are given than are to be found in lists previously mentioned, but dates are generally omitted, and the name of the publisher must be known before the work can be used.

For the older American books, J. Sabin's unfinished *Dictionary of Books relating to America* (20 vols., N. Y., 1868-92) is undoubtedly the best catalogue, but its great cost (\$500) makes it generally inaccessible. Use must, therefore, be made of the list of American books to 1776 appended to I. Thomas' *History of Printing in America* (2nd ed., 2 vols., Albany, 1874); to Trübner & Co.'s *Bibliographical Guide to American Literature* (Lond., 1855); to O. A. Roorbach's *Bibliotheca Americana, 1820-1860* (4 vols., N. Y., 1852-61); and to J. Kelly's *American Catalogue, 1861-70* (2 vols., N. Y., 1866-71). Consult also special local lists such as J. Williamson's *Bibliography of Maine* (2 vols., Portland, 1896).

S. A. Allibone's *Critical Dictionary of English Literature* (3 vols., Phila., 1859-71), with its supplement by J. F. Kirk (2 vols., Phila., 1891) is useful biographically as well as bibliographically. A chief use of it is for its references to reviews and other critical notices.

5. BOOKS PUBLISHED IN THE BRITISH ISLES.

J. Whitaker's *Reference Catalogue of Current Literature* (last ed. in 2 vols., Lond., 1898) is a collection of publishers' catalogues arranged alphabetically by firm-names; a good author-, title-, and subject-index is prefixed to the first volume.

Current publications are listed in the *Publishers' Circular* (Lond., 1837 to date, weekly), and cumulated into the annual *English Catalogue of Books* (Lond., 1863-1900). The

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latter work is published also in five volumes (1835-62, 1863-71, 1872-80, 1881-89, 1890-97). These are all author-lists. The *English Catalogue* has, however, issued an *Index of Subjects* for the years 1837-57, 1856-75, 1874-80, and 1881-89; from 1890 the author-, title-, and subject-lists are in a single alphabet.

For earlier English books consult G. Bullen's *Catalogue of English Books in the British Museum to 1640* (3 vols., Lond., 1884); E. Arber's *Transcripts of the Registers of the Company of Stationers of London between 1554-1660* (5 vols., Lond., 1875); R. Clavell's *Catalogue of Books, 1666-1700*; the *London Catalogue, 1700-1855*; R. Watt's *Bibliotheca Britannica* (4 vols., Edinb., 1824), and W. T. Lowndes's *Bibliographer's Manual of English Literature*, edited by H. G. Bohn (11 parts, Lond., 1869). Consult also the lists of new books printed in each number of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, the *London Magazine*, etc., in the eighteenth century; also local bibliographies such as R. Bowes's *Catalogue of Books*, printed at Cambridge (Camb., 1894).

The *British Museum Catalogue* (*supra*) is of course especially valuable for British and Irish publications. Allibone's *Critical Dictionary* (*supra*) is as useful for English as for American books. Careful bibliographies are usually appended to articles in the *Dictionary of National Biography* (*infra*).

6. BOOKS PUBLISHED IN FRANCE.

For French books consult J. M. Quérard's various bibliographies—his *France littéraire* (12 vols., Paris, 1827-64), *La littérature française contemporaine, 1827-40* (6 vols., Paris, 1840-57)—which, with O. Lorenz and D. Jordell's *Catalogue de la librairie française, 1840-90* (13 vols., Paris, 1867-96) make a record covering 1700-1890; a new volume of Jordell covering 1891-99 is now publishing. D. Jordell's *Catalogue annuel de la librairie française*