The Library offers many books on proverbs. A proverb should not be confused with a quotation, however, you may find some proverbs in books of quotations. A proverb is a short, pithy, saying in frequent and widespread use, expressing a well-known truth or fact which offers advice or presents a moral. This guide will give you an overview of what is available and direct you to locating these sources. These materials are located in two areas; reference and stacks, in the call number areas REF. PN 6400 - 6525.

OPAC The quickest way to find books on your subject is to search the "Online Public Access Catalog" (OPAC) under the following subject headings or title keyword according to the Library of Congress Subject Headings:

- Adages
- Aphorisms & Apothegms
- Clichés
- Epigrams
- Folk Literature
- Maxims
- Mottoes
- Paremiology
- Paromiology
- Proverbs
- Proverbs, African
- Proverbs, American Weather-Folklore
- Proverbs, Arabic-Tunisia
- Proverbs, English
- Proverbs-History and Criticism
- Quotations
- Sayings
- Terms and Phrases

REFERENCES In most of the books on proverbs, you can locate the proverbs by a key word or subject in alphabetical order. In some cases other subjects are given for further searching. In other sources, you may want to look in the index under a key word or subject and scan to find the direct proverb you want. A few of the sources have no index. While searching, remember some translations of the proverbs may differ.

** TITLES WITH ** (double asterisks) give you brief interpretations of proverbs. **

- **1001 Proverbs from Tunisia** REF. PN 6519 .A7 Y48 1987
  Arranged alphabetically according to the English transliteration, followed by a literal translation, some annotations and explanations, and, when possible, the anecdote, story, or legend from which the proverb sprang.

- **Bartlett's Familiar Quotations** PN 6081 .B27 2002
  A collection of passages, phrases, and proverbs traced to their sources in ancient and modern literature.

- **Beowulf and the Medieval Proverb Tradition** PR 1587 .P75 D47 1996

- **Cassell's Dictionary of Proverbs** REF. PN 6405 .P54 2001
  Comprises over 3000 entries, covering well-known and less familiar proverbs from all over the English-speaking world, as well as a wide and representative selection from other cultures.

- **The City : A Dictionary of Quotable Thought on Cities and Urban Life** REF. HT 111 .C576 1984 Provides summaries of over 3,000 quotations, proverbs, etc.

- **The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs** REF. PN 6421 .C64 1982
  A concise dictionary that deals principally with proverbs known in the twentieth century, especially in Britain and America. Also gives full documentary information from the point at which each proverb enters the English language.
A Dictionary of American Proverbs
Lists only true proverbs, which are concise statements of apparent truths that have common currency that are commonly used in North America, although some may not be of American origin.

Dictionary of Foreign Phrases and Classical Quotations
Contains 14,000 idioms, proverbs, maxims, mottoes, technical words and terms, and press allusions from the works of the great writers in Latin, Greek, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.

** The Dictionary of Modern Proverbs
Presents more than 1,400 individual proverbs.

** Dictionary of Popular Proverbs and Sayings
An A-Z dictionary of over 1,500 proverbs and sayings, with 10,000 illustrative examples.

A Dictionary of Quotations from Shakespeare

A Dictionary of Wellerisms

Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins

** The Facts on File Dictionary of Proverbs
Collection of over 7,000 proverbs contains the familiar and the unfamiliar, drawn from all periods and all nations, and is designed for the casual browser and the connoisseur alike.

** The Facts on File Dictionary of Proverbs
Provides meaning and origins of more than 1,700 popular sayings.

The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins

Familiar Quotations : A Collection of Passages, Phrases and Proverbs
Traced to their sources in ancient and modern literature. Use the index to find the number for the proverb. "444b" would be located on page 444 in the second column.

The Great Business Quotations
This book is a miscellany of quotations and quips, sayings and satire, wisecracks and witticisms, proverbs and precepts, dictums and doggerel, epigrams and aphorisms, truisms and adages, axioms and maxims, poems and rhymes, limericks and graffiti as an anthology.

The House of the Heart Is Never Full and Other Proverbs of Africa

The International Thesaurus of Quotations
Contains 16,000 quotations and proverbs conveniently indexed by category, key word, and author.

The Macmillan Book of Proverbs, Maxims, and Famous Phrases
Quotations from the Greek, Latin, German, Italian, Spanish, French and Dutch languages are given in the original format, as well as in translation.

Mottoes
A compilation of more than 9,000 mottoes from around the world and throughout history.

The Oxford Dictionary of English Proverbs
The proverbs are arranged in alphabetical order by some (usually the first) significant word in each. The part (if any) of the proverb preceding the significant word is transferred to the end of the proverb, or, to an intermediate point in it.

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**The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs**
Over 1,100 proverbs are presented with the history and meaning.

Proverbial Language in English Drama Exclusive of Shakespeare, 1495-1616
Indexes all extant English drama from Henry Medwall to plays first performed in the year of Shakespeare's death.

**Proverbs : A Handbook**
Offers a comprehensive overview of proverbs in world culture. Begins with definitions and classifications of proverbs, followed by discussion of several notable examples.

** Random House Dictionary of Popular Proverbs & Sayings**
Contains scores of proverbs that are currently used in many countries, and subdivided into five categories: historical, scientific, literary, sports, and patriotic.

Reggae Wisdom: Proverbs in Jamaican Music
The author looks at the contexts and origins of these proverbs.

** Respectfully Quoted**
A dictionary of quotations from the Congressional Research Service.

Weather Proverbs
Contains 600 proverbs, sayings, and poems that accurately explain our weather.

The Women’s Bible Commentary
Gathers the work of many outstanding women scholars, who introduce each book of the Bible with an extended discussion of general critical issues of the book and a narrative summary of its content. They follow with a commentary on those sections of the book that have particular relevance to women and enable readers to understand the significance of the presence or absence of women.

The Yale Book of Quotations
Contains more than 12,000 famous quotations and proverbs.

After finding the source of a proverb you may then search the OPAC by author(s) or title(s) of book(s) to locate the original source of the proverb.

You may also want to use the Quotations research guide.

Research guides are located on the Gates Memorial Library Home Page Library Home Page. You may access them to link to Web Sites.

WWW - You can find many proverbs on the web but very few websites provide explanations or meanings.
* African Proverbs, Sayings, and Stories* provides some explanations.
Bible Explained.com is an interactive commentary on the whole Bible.  
Fagan Finder: Quotations and Proverbs Search  
The Phrase Finder - 1,700 English phrases, sayings, idioms and expressions, with their meanings and origins explained.  
Creative Proverbs permits you to search 12,000 proverbs from 300 countries and cultures by keyword. This is possibly the largest (and certainly the most creative) Internet resource for proverbs.

If you need further assistance, please ask a librarian, in person or online Chat with a Librarian

Our purpose is to provide essential library resources and services - collections, instruction, access, facilities and personnel - to our students, faculty and staff in support of the educational programs.