PROVERBS

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                   Proverbs
Aphorisms & Apothegms    Proverbs, African
Cliches                  Proverbs, American Weather–Folklore
Epigrams                Proverbs, Arabic–Tunisia
Folk Literature         Proverbs, English
Maxims                   Proverbs–History and Criticism
Mottoes                 Quotations
Paremiology             Sayings
Paromiology             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  REF. 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  
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  
PN 6519 .A6 Z66 1993
The International Thesaurus of Quotations
Contains 16,000 quotations and proverbs conveniently indexed by category, key word, and author.

** Interpreter's Bible
The Holy Scriptures in the King James and Revised standard versions with general articles and introduction, exegesis, exposition for each book of the Bible.

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.

** Magill's Quotations in Context
Quotations from world literature revealing who said what under what circumstances.

** Magill's Quotations in Context (Second Series)
Contains 1,500 additional quotations with context paragraphs.

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

The Multicultural Dictionary of Proverbs
Lists over 20,000 adages from more than 120 languages, nationalities and ethnic groups. (Does not give origin)

** The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible
An illustrated encyclopedia identifying and explaining all proper names and significant terms and subjects in the Holy Scriptures, including the Apocrypha, with attention to archaeological discoveries and researches into the life and faith of ancient times

** NTC's Dictionary of Proverbs and Clichés
Contains approximately 950 old and new proverbs and cliché's in use in the English language. Each of the expressions is defined in clear English and illustrated by two or more realistic examples.

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.

The Oxford Dictionary of Idioms
Presents more than 5,000 idioms explaining the meaning and origin of metaphorical phrases, similes, sayings, and proverbs.

Oxford Dictionary of Phrase, Saying, and Quotation
A rich profusion of proverbs, phrases, and quotations, arranged under a wide range of subjects.

** 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  
REF. PR 658 .P73 D46 1984
Indexes all extant English drama from Henry Medwall to plays first performed in the year of Shakespeare's death.

**Proverbs : A Handbook**  
REF. PN 6401 .M487 2004
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**  
REF. PN 6405 .T57 1996
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**  
ML 3532 .P73 2001
The author looks at the contexts and origins of these proverbs.

** Respectfully Quoted**  
REF. PN 6081 .R435 1989
A dictionary of quotations from the Congressional Research Service.

**Weather Proverbs**  
REF. QC 998 .F76 1989
Contains 600 proverbs, sayings, and poems that accurately explain our weather.

**The Women’s Bible Commentary**  
REF. BS 491.2 .W66 1992
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**  
REF. PN 6081 .Y35 2006
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. 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**  
  African Proverbs and Sayings (Gives some explanations)
- **The Bible Explained.com**  
  The Bible Explained. 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**  
  The Proverbs Search Engine 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.

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.