The Italian Language
Dictionaries, Dialects, History
Call Number Range PC 1001 - 1977

Historical Dictionaries

Library of Congress Subject Heading:
Italian language -- 1300 To 1500
Italian language -- Dictionaries

Glossario degli antichi volgari italiani. (GAVI) Giorgio Colussi. (ongoing project)
A major historical dictionary of the non-Tuscan Italian dialects as recorded in documents and literary texts.
Confusing publication sequence (ongoing): Volumes 1-4 cover the letters A-D. Volumes 16-17 cover S-T. Volume 19 covers U-V (V is as yet incomplete). Volume 18 is a new edition of the letter A, in 13 parts. Volume 17, Part 3 is a new edition of the letter B. Volume 20, Part 1 is a Bibliography of texts used; Part 2 is a Repertorio that lists lemma and cross references.

D Level Blue Labels: PC 1772 .G5 1983

Tesoro della Lingua Italiana delle Origini (TLIO)

The dictionary portion of the project is ongoing. The corpus of texts used in the creation of the dictionary is available online and is entirely searchable, through the Libraries’ subscription to the ARTFL databases. Link is from the Libraries’ Web site, under Online Resources – By Subject : Italian Language and Literature.

http://tlio.ovi.cnr.it/TLIO/

Vocabolario degli Accademici della Crusca
A very large scale dictionary with many quotations from Italian literature. The effort of the famous Accademici della Crusca to purify the Italian language. Various editions have been published.

General Reference : PC 1625 .A3 1859 QUARTO (4 vol.)
LSC: PG 625 .A16 1863 QUARTO (11 vol.)
Special Collections : PG 625 .A16 1612

Vocabolario della Crusca (1612)
Online version of the 1st edition of the above dictionary.
http://vocabolario.biblio.cribecu.sns.it/Vocabolario/html/_s_index2.html
Grande dizionario della lingua italiana, Salvatore Battaglia. 21 volumes

*General Reference: PC 1625 .B3 1961 QUARTO*

Dizionario della lingua italiana, N. Tommaseo. (6 volumes)
Comprehensive dictionary of the language; words are illustrated with quotations from older literature, with precise references. Abbreviations for sources are listed in Volume 1 at the front. (According to Walford’s, this dictionary was superseded by the *Grande dizionario*, above).

*D Level Blue Labels: PC 1625 .T6 1929 QUARTO*

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**Modern Language Dictionaries**

**ITALIAN /ITALIAN DICTIONARIES**

*Library of Congress Subject Heading:*

*Italian language--Dictionaries*

Grande dizionario della lingua italiana moderna, Garzanti. 5 volumes
The standard for modern Italian. Includes numerous quotations from modern Italian writers since Manzoni with the aim of clarifying the meaning and usage of words.

*General Reference: PC 1620 .G73 1998*

*With accompanying CD-ROM, Comp File 1930*

Lo Zingarelli.
Large, single volume dictionary. Entries include etymology and quotations from literature. Also includes illustrations, lists of abbreviations, proper names, specialist vocabulary, and proverbs

*General Reference: PC 1625 .Z5 2004*

*D Level Blue Labels: PC 1625 .Z5 1999*

Vocabolario della lingua italiana, 4 volumes in 5.
A very full dictionary of modern usage, with brief etymologies and numerous brief example phrases, a few of which are attributed to literary authors. Many illustrations and diagrams.

*General Reference: PC 1625 .V53 1986 QUARTO*
ITALIAN / ENGLISH DICTIONARIES

Library of Congress Subject Heading:
Italian language --Dictionaries--English
English language -- Dictionaries --- Italian

Sansoni-Harrap's standard Italian and English dictionary. 4 volumes (vol. 1-2 Italian-English; vol. 3-4 English-Italian)
Claims to be the most comprehensive Italian-English dictionary ever compiled. 150,000 words in Part 1 (Italian-English), and 170,000 in Part 2 (English-Italian). Includes proper names, abbreviations, technical terms, slang, neologisms, and regionalisms. American and British English given equal treatment. (vol. 1 of the English-Italian is on order)

General Reference:  PC 1640 .S3 1970 QUARTO

Very comprehensive ("reviewers suggest there is very little in other major dictionaries which is absent from Hazon"). Primarily intended for Italian users. Includes specialist terms, quotations from literature, phonetic transcription for English words only.

D Level Blue Labels:  PC 1640 .N85 1990

Collins English-Italian, Italian-English dictionary / Collins dizionario inglese-italiano, italiano-inglese.
Good coverage of contemporary idiomatic usage. Strong on neologisms. Includes abbreviations and proper names

General Reference:  PC 1640 .C624 2005
D Level Blue Labels:  PC 1640 .C624 1995

The Cambridge Italian Dictionary. Barbara Reynolds 2 volumes (vol. 1 Italian-English; vol. 2 English-Italian)
Volume One was designed to answer the question "What does that mean?"; Volume Two "How does one say...?". Intended principally for English speaking users, especially translators. Includes technical terms, and vocabulary from specialist fields. Largely British English, rather than American.

General Reference:  PC 1640 .R46 QUARTO
D Level Blue Labels:  PC 1640 .R46 QUARTO

Italian Dictionaries and Word Lists
Links to many online Italian/English and monoglot dictionaries.
http://italian.about.com/od/italiandictionaries/Dictionaries.htm
Etymology

Library of Congress Subject Heading:
Italian language -- Etymology - - Dictionaries

Dizionario etimologico italiano. C. Battisti. 5 volumes.
A well-established etymological dictionary, giving derivation from Latin, approximate date
of introduction into Italian, variants and similarities in other languages, as well as
definitions. Includes both contemporary and archaic literary terms, selected technical and
foreign terms, dialect words. Examples are dated when possible.
General Reference: PC 1580 .B3 1975

Dizionario etimologico della lingua italiana. Manlio Cortelazzo, Paolo Zolli. 5 volumes
A scholarly etymological dictionary. Numerous quotations. Bibliography of sources in
each volume. Entries gives dates of earliest appearance, and a list of derived and
compound forms.
D Level Blue Labels: PC 1580 .C67 1979

LEI : lessico etimologico italiano. Max Pfister. volumes (ongoing project)
A very scholarly etymological dictionary of the Italian language and its dialects. Entries
include detailed references to sources and citations to other dictionaries and linguistic
studies. Slow – only up to the letter “C”.
D Level Blue Labels: PC 1580 .P38 1985 QUARTO
Web version: even slower; only includes “A”.
http://germazope.unitrier.de/Projects/WBB/woerterbuecher/woerterbuecher/lei/wbgui

History of the Italian Language

Library of Congress Subject Heading:
Italian language--History

Storia dell'italiano: la formazione della lingua comune dalle origini al Rinascimento. R.
Tesi.
D Level Blue Labels: PC 1077 .T43 2001
Dialects of Italian

*Library of Congress Subject Heading:*

*Italian language--Dialects*

*I dialetti italiani : storia, struttura, uso,* Manlio Cortelazzo

Comprehensive panorama of Italy's linguistic history through its dialects. Analyzes the various dialects from north to south, tracing the history of each one, illustrating its characteristics, its current diffusion, and its literary production and uses.

*D Level Blue Labels:*  
*PC 1712 .D524 2002 QUARTO*

*LEI : lessico etimologico italiano,* Max Pfister.

Described above, under *Etymology.* Each entry includes a full list of dialect variants.

There are many dictionaries and grammars of the many dialects of Italian (Venice, Florence, Naples, Sicily, etc.) To locate them, do an Alphabetical search in the catalog on Subjects - - Library of Congress.

Type in:  
*Italian language - -Dialects - -Italy - - Name of dialect or region*
Some of the major dictionaries of dialects of Italian include:

**Southern**

*Sicily*

Vocabolario siciliano

*D Level Blue Labels:* PC 1802 .V6 1977 (5 vol.)

Nuovo vocabolario siciliano-italiano

*D Level Blue Labels:* PC 1802.T73 1868 QUARTO

*Naples (Neapolitan)*

Alfabeto napoletano.

*D Level Blue Labels:* PC 1814 .N3D4 1985 (3 vol.)

**Central Italy**

*Rome*

Dizionario italiano-romanesco

*D Level Blue Labels:* PC 1825 .Z9 R6545 2003

**Tuscan**

**Venetian**

*Venice (Venetian)*

Dizionario del dialetto veneziano. Giuseppe Boerio.

*D Level Blue Labels:* PC 1847 .V45 B6 1867 QUARTO

Etimologie venete.

*D Level Blue Labels:* PC 1847 .P7 1968

*Trieste*

Grande dizionario del dialetto triestino : storico, etimologico, fraseologico

*D Level Blue Labels:* PC 1929 .D6 1987

**Raeto-Romanic**

*Ladin*

Dizionar di ladin standard (DLS)

*D Level Blue Labels:* PC 945 .A1 D59 2002 QUARTO
Gallo-Italian

Ligurian
Vocabolario ligure storico-bibliografico : sec. X-XX
D Level Blue Labels: PC 1872 .A67 2001 (2 volumes in 4)

Milanese
Vocabolario milanese-italiano
D Level Blue Labels: PC 1864 .M5 C5 1983

Piedmontese
Dizionario piemontese italiano, latino e francese
D Level Blue Labels: PC 1867 .Z34 1830 (2 volumes)

Gran dizionario piemontese-italiano
D Level Blue Labels: PC 1867 .S2 2000 QUARTO

Parmigiano
Vocabolario parmigiano-italiano
D Level Blue Labels: PC 1859 .P3 M3 1856 (4 volumes in 2)

Slang Dictionaries

Library of Congress Subject Heading:
Italian language--Slang- -Dictionaries

Dizionario storico dei gerghi italiani : dal quattrocento a oggi. Ernesto Ferrero
A discursive dictionary with some attributed quotations and with historical-etymological
notes. Standard Italian-argot index, and bibliography.

Le parole della gente : dizionario dell'italiano gergale : dalle voci burlesche medioevali ai
linguaggi contemporanei dei giovani. Gianfranco Lotti.
Vocabulary (argot) from the Middle Ages to today's youth.

Enciclopedia delle ingiurie, degli insulti, delle contumelie e delle insolenze. Ugo Nanni.
Includes an alphabetical dictionary with quotations from literature. Index of authors
quoted.
D Level Blue Labels : PQ 4263 .N3 1953
Dizionario letterario del lessico amoroso

Based on Dizionario storico del lessico erotico italiano (Longanesi, 1996) revised, enlarged and updated.

D Level Blue Labels: PC 1974.S48 B64 2000 QUARTO

Voci di gerganti, vagabondi e malviventi, studiate nell’origine e nella storia. P. Angelico

On Order

Researching the Italian Language

Bibliografia Generale della Lingua e della Letteratura Italiana (BiGLI)
An index to (mostly) Italian periodical articles and book chapters on the Italian language (and literature). Annual volumes. An essential resource in Italian studies.


MLA International bibliography
The major database for articles (mostly in English) on the Italian language (and literature). Another essential resource.

Available from the Libraries’ main Web page, under “Online Resources-By Subject”

Linguistics Abstracts Online
Contains abstracts of scholarly articles appearing in linguistics journals from around the world. Also includes abstracts from articles in related fields.

Available from the Libraries’ main Web page, under “Online Resources-By Subject”

Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts
Covers the study of language including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Coverage is also given to various fields of linguistics including descriptive, historical, comparative, theoretical, and geographical linguistics.

Available from the Libraries’ main Web page, under “Online Resources-By Subject”
Resources used in this Guide, and for a more complete listing and description of many kinds of Italian dictionaries:

Walford’s guide to reference material. Volume 3: Generalia, language & literature, the arts. “Romance Languages: Italian” p. 600-603. (many of the descriptions in this guide are taken verbatim from Walford's)
D Level: Z 1035 .W25 1993


Italian Studies Web, from the Western European Studies Section of ACRL.
http://wess.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Italian_Reference_Shelf

Other Resources


D Level Blue Labels: P 327.45 .E85C66 2008

A history of foreign-language dictionaries. R. L. Collison.
LSC: P 327 .C61 1982

Dictionaries of foreign languages. R. L. Collison.
D Level: Z 7004 .D5 C6 1955