

THE
LONDON
LIBRARY

A GUIDE TO:

SCANDINAVIAN &
NORDIC
COLLECTIONS

Scope of the Collection

It should be noted that although the term Nordic more accurately describes the collection of the topography, history and literature etc. of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, the term Scandinavian is used here as it reflects the majority of our holdings in this field.

The Library has built up a notably strong collection of books in subjects of Scandinavian interest (in the original languages and in English), with a particular emphasis on Swedish material. A large part of the collection will be found under the relevant shelfmarks in the main Literature, History and Topography sections of the Library, which are detailed below, with further representation in the Bibliography, Philology and Religion sections.

Dictionaries and grammars in all major Scandinavian languages are included in the collection, together with some historic guide books to the region.

With the exception of the Literature section, relevant material in English and in Scandinavian languages is shelved together in each of the subject areas. Suggestions for specific additions to the collection may be directed to the Acquisitions Department.

Literature

Works of Scandinavian literature have been arranged under the following subdivisions; as throughout the Library's collections, these shelfmarks are arranged on the shelves in alphabetical order. L. Danish Lit. and L. Finnish Lit. are in the 2nd Floor Literature sections; L. Icelandic Lit., L. Norwegian, L. Scandinavian Lit. and L. Swedish Lit. are in 4th Floor Literature.

L. Danish Lit., Hist. of – for general literary criticism and works on the history of Danish literature, in all languages.

L. Danish Lit. – covering all sets of complete works, essays, plays, poetry and fiction in the original Danish, together with literary criticism (in all languages) of individual authors

L. Danish Lit., Trans. – for translations into all languages of literary works by Danish-language authors (excluding fiction translated into English)

L. Finnish Lit. – covering all sets of complete works, essays, plays, poetry and fiction in the original Finnish, together with literary criticism in all languages

L. Finnish Lit., Trans. – for translations into all languages of literary works by Finnish language authors (excluding fiction translated into English)

L. Icelandic Lit., Hist. of – for general literary criticism and works on the history of Icelandic literature, in all languages

L. Icelandic Lit. – covering all sets of complete works, essays, plays, poetry and fiction in the original Icelandic, together with literary criticism (in all languages) of individual authors

L. Icelandic Lit., Trans. – for translations into all languages of literary works by Icelandic language authors (excluding fiction translated into English)

L. Norwegian Lit., Hist. of – for general literary criticism and works on the history of Norwegian literature, in all languages

L. Norwegian Lit. – covering all sets of complete works, essays, plays, poetry and fiction in the original Norwegian, together with literary criticism (in all languages) of individual authors. There are also several Faroese volumes under this shelfmark.

L. Norwegian Lit., Trans. – for translations into all languages of literary works by Norwegian-language authors (excluding fiction translated into English)

L. Scandinavian – for works of literary criticism and literary history (in all languages) which cover the literature of more than one Scandinavian country

L. Swedish Lit., Hist. of – for general literary criticism and works on the history of Swedish literature, in all languages

L. Swedish Lit. – covering all sets of complete works, essays, plays, poetry and fiction in the original Swedish, together with literary criticism (in all languages) of individual authors

L. Swedish Lit., Trans. – for translations into all languages of literary works by Swedish language authors (excluding fiction translated into English)

There is also a sequence of larger-format books in the Literature section, located on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Books shelved here will include a size indicator in their shelfmarks (eg L. Swedish Lit., 4to.); it is always advisable to consult the Library's catalogues as well as browsing the shelves, and to note down shelfmarks in full.

Translations into English of works of fiction (novels and short-stories) by Danish, Norwegian, Finnish, Icelandic and Swedish authors (and 1 Faroese work) are shelved in the Library's main Fiction collection, on the 2nd floor and Mezzanine.

History

Within the Library's History section works are not subdivided by language, so relevant books in all languages will be found in the main sequence under the appropriate subject shelfmark. General works on the history of the whole region or of more than one Scandinavian country will be found at H. Scandinavia, with books on the histories of the individual countries at, respectively: H. Denmark, H. Finland, H. Greenland, H. Iceland, H. Norway and H. Sweden (in which the Library's collection is notably rich).

Finnish and Swedish military histories are shelved separately at H. Army, Finnish, and H. Army, Swedish. Books on individual Scandinavian monarchs and their reigns will also be found under individual shelfmarks, e.g. H. Caroline Matilda, Queen of Denmark ; H. Charles X, King of Sweden.

All of these shelfmarks are arranged in alphabetical order, across the History section on Levels 2, 3 and 4. Please note that there are separate sequences for larger-format books (i.e. 4to and folio); the stack-boards at the end of each row will help you navigate these sections.

Topography

Books on the topography and geography of the region in all languages are shelved in the Library's Topography section (on Level 1) at the following shelfmarks: T. Denmark; T. Faroe Islands; T. Finland; T. Greenland; T. Iceland; T. Lapland; T. Norway; T. Scandinavia; T. Spitsbergen; and T. Sweden. Again these are arranged in alphabetical order. There are also separate sequences for larger-format books (4to. and folio); please note down carefully shelfmarks from the Library's catalogues and consult the stack-boards at the end of each row.

Reference and other works

Dictionaries in the following Scandinavian languages can be found in the main Reading Room (1st Floor): Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Sami, Swedish, and 1 Faroese volume. The section R.R. Biographical Dicts. includes national biographies. Grammars and older dictionaries are located in the Philology section (Mezzanine and 3rd Floor) at the following subdivisions: Danish; Faroese; Finnish; Icelandic; Norwegian; Sami and Swedish.

The Library holds the current edition of Svensk bokförteckning – årskatalog (Swedish National Bibliography) and a complete run of Dania Polyglotta, an annual bibliography of works published in Denmark in all languages, 1945-1997. Both are shelved at Bibliog. Scandinavian in the Bibliography section on the 5th Floor. Bibles in Danish, Eskimo, Finnish, Icelandic and Sami can be found in the Religion section (5th Floor) at R. Bibles and works on churches and religion in the Scandinavian countries at R. Finland, Eccles. Hist. and R. Scandinavian, Eccles. Hist.

Guide books (largely of historic interest) are shelved above the Circulation Desk at Guide Books, Scandinavia, and Guide Books, Iceland.

Periodicals

The Library maintains Scandinavica (complete run from Vol. 1, 1962). The current year's editions are available in the Reading Room, with earlier editions shelved in the Periodicals section in the Basement in bound volumes which are available for loan. It also has a run of Edda from 1914-2010 in the main Periodicals collection.

Online Services

The following websites of Scandinavian interest may be accessed directly from the Internet.

The Runeberg Project including over 200 full-text works of Nordic literature
runeberg.org

The electronic gateway for Icelandic literature
www.egil.nottingham.ac.uk

Dictionaries and maps:
www.norden.org/en/resources/resources

Useful online dictionaries:

Danish: www.smallmeans.com/dictionary

Finnish: www.sanakirja.org

Icelandic: digicoll.library.wisc.edu/IcelOnline/Search.TEId.html

Norwegian: decentius.hit.uib.no/lexin.html

Swedish: folkets-lexikon.csc.kth.se/folkets
www.tyda.se