

# EXPLORE THE BRITISH LIBRARY: NAVIGATING THE CATALOGUE

<http://explore.bl.uk>

## Navigation

Explore the British Library has three main areas of navigation as well as links to other catalogues and useful information.

In the right-hand corner above the Library's banner you have:

Guest ★ My workspace Personal settings **Log in**

My workspace	You can save searches and items in this area. You will also see the searches you have made in your current session listed here; you can use this list to re-run your searches again. <b>NB:</b> Your current session's searches are only stored temporarily, even if you are logged in. If you want to retain them, you must save them.
Personal settings	You can set the number of results you'd like to see on the page. You can specify your email address for contact purposes.
Log in	Allows you save items into My Workspace, write notes, and assign tags. <b>NB:</b> Registered readers wishing to order items to the Library's Reading Rooms, or document supply customers wishing to order items to their home/office, must log in.

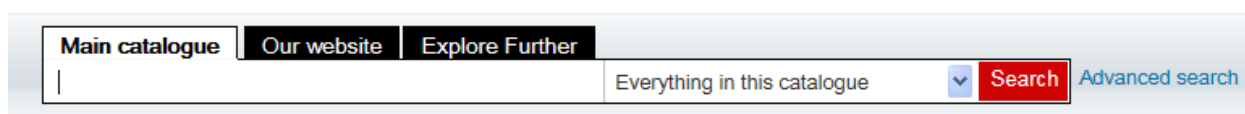
Below the banner, you will see:

[bl.uk](#) [Explore Home](#) [Feedback](#) [Tags](#) [Basket](#) [Request Other Items](#) [My Reading Room Requests](#) [Help](#)

<a href="#">bl.uk</a>	Takes you to the home page of the British Library's website.
<a href="#">Explore Home</a>	Takes you to the home page of 'Explore the British Library'; the Simple search page. <b>NB:</b> If you have previously searched using indexes, click Explore Home to clear the set indexes.
<a href="#">Feedback</a>	Use this form if you want to send us a comment about the system.
<a href="#">Tags</a>	You can tag items with words or phrases; this area allows you to see all the tags you have used, and the most popular tags used by other people. You can also search for tags. <b>NB:</b> You must be logged in to assign tags.
<a href="#">Basket</a>	<b>For registered readers only.</b> You can request items previously added to your basket. <b>NB:</b> You must be logged in to request items.

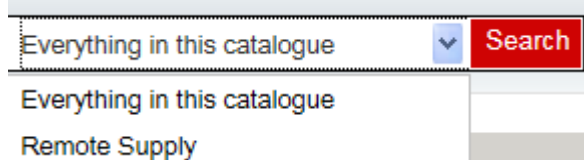
Request Other Items	<b>For registered readers only.</b> Allows readers to <a href="#">request</a> items, to a Reading Room, for which there are no records in Explore the British Library, <b>NB:</b> You must be logged in to request items.
My Reading Room Requests	The My Reading Room Requests service allows registered readers to track current requests and see details of items ordered in the past. <b>NB:</b> You have to log in and log out of this system even if you're logged into 'Explore the British Library'.
Help	Links to online help. If you'd like to see other things included here, please let us know.

Above the search input box are the different tabs:



Main catalogue	Searches circa 57 million records of items in the Library's collection.
Our website	Searches thousands of records of the Library's webpages.
Explore further	Searches circa 200 million records of online scholarly material.

**NB:** Within the 'Main catalogue' tab you can choose to search everything restrict your search to those items which can be photocopied, or in some cases loaned, and delivered to your home or office via our remote [document supply](#) services:



Links to other catalogues are displayed in 'What is Explore the British Library?' information, below the search box:

- > [Archives and manuscript collections](#)
- > [Register of Preservation Surrogates \(RPS\)](#)
- > [British National Bibliography \(BNB\)](#) (Explore the British Library continues to include BNB records for items held in our collections)
- > [Specialist catalogues.](#)

Archives and Manuscripts	Search the Library's rich and unique archive and manuscript collections
Register of Preservation Surrogates (RPS)	A catalogue of printed book and music titles on archival microform.
British National Bibliography (BNB)	Lists books and new journal titles published or distributed in the UK and Ireland since 1950; and forthcoming titles and hand-held electronic publications.
Specialist catalogues	The Library has many specialist online catalogues.

Other useful links are found in the 'Quick links' section below the search box and information 'What is Explore the British Library?':

### **Quick Links**

- > [Ask the Reference Team](#) - for help with your research
- > [Locations and opening times](#) - London and Boston Spa
- > [Reading Rooms](#) - we have Reading Rooms on both sites
- > [Register for a Reader Pass](#) - you need a Pass to use our Rooms
- > [Document supply](#) - we have a number of document supply services
- > [Exhibitions and events](#) - what's on at the Library
- > [Online shop](#) - books, audio and gifts
- > [All catalogues](#) - we have over 20 online catalogues
- > [MARC records via Z39.50](#) - access our MARC 21 records