Research Guide to:

Etymology

Call numbers: 420 English & Old English, 422 & 423 Etymology & Dictionaries, 427 Historical & Geographic Variations

Subject headings/keywords: etymology, word origins, figures of speech, word phrases, slang

For further assistance: Please consult the staff at the Reference Desk or call 816-604-2268

Library home page: http://lvlibrary.mcckc.edu

Begin Search

- Create search question
- Identify keywords from search question
- Combine keywords or concepts with Boolean operators (and, or, not) for use in the appropriate databases

Consult the Library of Congress Subject Headings (red books located at the Reference Desk.) Look up subject to determine any additional topics needed for search.

Print Sources

The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language [esp. “Etymology” article]
Ref 420 C88c-2

The Prodigal Tongue: Dispatches from the Future of English
420.9 Ab6p

Inventing English: A Portable History of the Language
420.9 L56i

The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins
Ref 422 H38f-3

The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English
422 H63s

Word Origins – And How We Know Them
422 L61w

Origins: A Short Etymological Dictionary of Modern English
Ref 422 P25o

An Analytic Dictionary of English Etymology
Ref 422.03 L61a

Webster’s Word Histories
Ref 422.03 W39

Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins
Ref 423 M83d

Electronic Sources

Online Databases:
Academic Search Elite
Sociological Collection (EBSCO)
JSTOR
Literature Resource Center (Thomson-Gale)
ProQuest Research Library

Internet Resources:
Consult recommended Web Links on the Longview Library home page. Scroll down to General Reference. You can also find other links by going to the Language link and choosing Reference Tools.

Suggested Web Sites:

Online Etymology Dictionary
http://www.etymonline.com

Oxford Dictionaries Online
http://oxforddictionaries.com

One Look Dictionary Search
http://www.onelook.com/browse.shtml

Online Slang Dictionary
http://onlineslangdictionary.com