



University Library

Finding literature in Modern Greek

In the **UvA Catalogue** two transliteration schemes are used for Modern Greek:

- The International standard ISO 233 for works catalogued before 2011 (column 2).
- The ALA-LC transliteration for works catalogued after 2011 (column 3).
This is the transliteration of the *American Library Association - Library of Congress*, which is frequently used on the internet.

Since there are different transliterations of Modern Greek, it may be necessary to repeat your search using another transliteration scheme.

In **CataloguePlus**, too, both transliteration schemes are used. But CataloguePlus sometimes allows searches in the original script, unfortunately to a limited extent only. To do this, just paste a Modern Greek search term into the search window.

Note:

1. Some words, which in Modern Greek start with a vowel, had a so-called *spiritus asper* (aspiration) in classical Greek. According to the *Library of Congress* scheme, these words are transliterated with an **h** at the beginning of the word, to represent the Classical Greek *spiritus*, e.g. ελληνικός → *ellēnikos* (standard) or *hellēnikos* (*Library of Congress*). So when searching with terms beginning with a vowel, you must try both variants, the one with the **h** and the one without it.
2. Until 2012, the UvA Catalogue used a thesaurus for personal names, so that all the variant spellings of a name were linked to the standardised spelling, for example *Kabafēs* for *Kavafis*, *Cavafy*, *Kabaphes*, etc. If you use the standardised spelling to search, you will get a more or less complete survey of works by this author added to the catalogue before 2012. Unfortunately, the author names of works added to the catalogue since then are no longer standardised, so that you must perform a separate search for each variant spelling of a name.

See the transliteration tables below.

Transliteration of Modern Greek

Greek letters	Standard transliteration	Deviations according to the <i>Library of Congress</i> transliteration
A, α	A, a	
B, β	B, b	V, v
Γ, γ - γγ - Γκ, γκ - γξ - γχ	G, g gg Gk, gk gx gch	ng Gk, gk (at the beginning and at the end of the word) nk (in the middle of the word) nx nch
Δ, δ	D, d	
E, ε	E, e	
Z, ζ	Z, z	
H, η	Ē, ē	
Θ, θ	Th, th	
I, ι	I, i	
K, κ	K, k	
Λ, λ	L, l	
M, μ - Μπ, μπ	M, m Mp, mp	B, b (at the beginning of the word) mp (in the middle of the word and at the end)
N, ν - Ντ, ντ	N, n Nt, nt	D, d (at the beginning of the word) nt (in the middle of the word and at the end)
Ξ, ξ	X, x	
O, ο	O, o	
Π, π	P, p	
P, ρ	R, r	
Σ, σ, ς	S, s	
T, τ	T, t	
Υ, υ - αυ, ευ, ηυ, ου, ωυ, υι	u	y - u in diphthongs: au, eu, ēu,ou, ōu, ui
Φ, φ	F, f	Ph, ph
Χ, χ	Ch, ch	
Ψ, ψ	Ps, ps	
Ω, ω	Ō, ō	