

STEP 2: Find Useful Reference Books

General (Multi-Subject) Encyclopedias.....REF AE 5 --
General encyclopedias are useful for basic, introductory or background information on many topics. The Eureka campus library has the Academic American, Collier's, Encyclopedia Americana 1995 & 2001 editions, Britannica, and the World Book encyclopedias. The Academic American 1988 and the Encyclopedia Americana 1992 editions are in the general collection and any volumes of these two sets may be borrowed.

Britannica Online<http://www.search.eb.com>
Britannica Online includes the complete Encyclopædia Britannica, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, the Britannica Book of the Year, and an Internet directory of 130,000+ links to Web sites selected, rated, and reviewed by Britannica editors. Use your Library / Student ID card barcode number as your password for off-campus access.

Subject Encyclopedias.....location varies by subject
Subject encyclopedias provide more detailed information about a topic. Articles are written by and for specialists in the subject field. Find subject encyclopedias by:

1. browsing the reference collection (see subject outline on facing page)
2. asking the Librarian for a recommendation
3. searching the library catalog; use the word encyclopedia and a broad subject word, for example, the search: *encyclopedia psychology* will find all of the psychology encyclopedias

Statistical Abstract of the United States..... REF HA 202 .B86
Quick and easy access to statistics on almost everything; it also includes international statistics.

Try Some of These "Idea Books"

10,000 Ideas for Term Papers, Projects, and Reports..... REF LB1047.3 .L35 1987
Although a bit dated, this book still provides some excellent ideas to pursue. Narrower research topics are offered in broad subject categories, with a "research difficulty" ranking.

You Are Being Lied To.....REF PN4784.O24 Y6 2001
An interesting and provocative compilation of essays covering a wide range of topics of social and political interest, including conspiracy theories, contrarian views, suppressed or censored news, under-reported news and scandals of all kinds.

Pros and Cons: a debater's handbook REF PN4181 .P76 1999
This book provides an outline of the arguments for and against issues ranging from anarchism to vegetarianism. Many of the political issues are specific to Great Britain.

Banned BooksREF Z658 .U5B36 1998
This four volume set profiles all books or authors that have been banned for political, social, sexual, or religious reasons. There is a subject, author, and title index in the back of each volume.

Project Censored: the top 25 censored news stories PN 4888 .P6 C45
This annual publication profiles the top censored, or under-reported, news stories of the year. This is the only "idea book" on this list that can be borrowed. The library has volumes for 1994-2001 & 2003.

Ask the Librarian to recommend encyclopedias or books about your topic

STEP 3: Find Books You Can Borrow By Browsing Call Number Subject Areas

Look at the list below and choose a subject area that interests you. Then go to the shelves and browse the books that have call numbers starting with the letter used for that subject area.

A	General Works	ND	Painting
AE	ENCYCLOPEDIAS	P	Language and Literature
AY	ALMANACS	PE	English Language
B-BJ	Philosophy, Psychology	PE1625	DICTIONARIES
BL-BX	Religion	PN1990-	Radio, television, film
C	History & Biography	PN6100s-	Drama
D	History: General	PR	English Language & literatures
DA-DR	History: Europe	PS	American Language & literatures
DS	History: Asia	Q	Science
DT	History: Africa	QA	Mathematics
E	History: U.S. (general)	QA76	Computer Science
F	History: U.S. and the Americas	QB	Astronomy
G	Geography, ATLASES, Maps	QC	Physics
GN	Anthropology	QD	Chemistry
GV	Sports, Recreation	QE	Geology
HA	Statistics	QH	Natural History
HB-HC	Economics	QK	Botany
HF-HJ	Business	QL	Zoology
HM-HX	Sociology	QM	Human anatomy
HQ	Women, children, family	QP	Physiology
HV	Criminology	QR	Microbiology
JA	Political Science	R	Medicine, Nursing
JK	United States	S	Agriculture
JN	Europe	T	Technology
JS	Local Governments	TA	Engineering
K	Law (General)	TL	Motor Vehicles
KF	Law of the United States	TR	Photography
L	Education	TT	Handicrafts
M	Music	TT180-	Carpentry, Woodworking
N	Fine Arts	TX	Home Economics & Cookery
NA	Architecture	U, V	Military Science, Naval Science
NC	Drawing, design, illustration	Z	Bibliographies & Library Science

STEP 4: Find Books You Can Borrow By Searching The Library Book Catalog

From the Library Home page, select the link, "FIND BOOKS." This includes books in all collections at the Eureka, Del Norte, or Mendocino campuses, and E-books. Use the space below to record some book titles and their locations and call numbers.

STEP 7: FIND MAGAZINE AND JOURNAL ARTICLES

From the Library Home page, select the link, "FIND ARTICLES" to access the databases described below.

EBSCOhost provides indexing, abstracts, and full text articles for 1,950 general periodicals and other research materials in the Masterfile database; full text for nearly 2,050 scholarly journals, including nearly 1,500 peer-reviewed titles in the Academic Elite database; and over 200 nursing, medical, and health journals in the Health Source, Clinical Pharmacology, and CINAHL databases. Access from home computers by using the complete barcode number on your Library / Student ID card.

ProQuest Research Library provides indexing, abstracts, and full text articles from over 8,000 general subject, academic journals, trade publications, and popular magazines. Access from home computers by using the first 5 digits of the barcode number on your Library / Student ID card.

NewsBank provides full text newspaper articles from three major U.S. newspapers (Christian Science Monitor, New York Times, Washington Post) and over 500 local or regional newspapers, including the Times-Standard and 85+ other California newspapers. Each paper provides unique coverage of local and regional news. Advertisements are excluded. Articles are text-only. Access from home computers by using the complete barcode number on your Library / Student ID card.

Gale's General Reference Center Gold provides indexing, abstracts, and full text articles from general interest and business magazines, newspapers, and reference books for information on business, industry, current events, the arts, science, entertainment, etc. You must have a Humboldt County Library Card; the barcode number is your password.

Tips for Searching Online Article Databases

Use your subject word list from your Research Worksheet (Step 1). Remember to try different variations and forms of the words that relate to your topic. Use the following commands:

Quotation Marks

Use quotation marks to enclose phrases that you want found *as a phrase*. For example,
Klamath river basin finds the words Klamath, river, and basin wherever they appear
"Klamath river basin" finds the words only as that exact phrase

Truncation

This means to cut off, and in searching online databases, it's a way to find all the variations of a search word without having to type them all into your search. The truncation symbol is a "stand-in" for any other letters. Usually, the ? stands for one letter, and the * for multiple letters. Try both symbols and see which works best.

wom?n finds woman, women
medic* finds medicine, medical, medication, medics, medic, etc.

Look for relevant SUBJECT HEADINGS that are used in the database you are searching. Some search systems call them "Descriptors." In ProQuest, these words are located in a box above your search results list. In EBSCO, they are listed in a column to the left of your search results list. Click on the SUBJECT HEADING link to find everything that is actually about that subject, rather than just having the words somewhere in the article or item record. An example might be that "adolescents" is used as the subject heading for every article that is about teens, teenagers, or youth.

STEP 8: FIND INTERNET RESOURCES

InfoMine..... <http://infomine.ucr.edu>
Features well organized access to important university level research and educational tools. INFOMINE contains over 100,000 links to substantive databases, electronic journals, subject guides to the Internet for most disciplines, textbooks and conference proceedings, among many other types of resources.

The Internet Public Library..... <http://www.ipl.org/>
Browse the Subject Collections (menu on left, in yellow), or use the search box and “GO” button at the top right to locate web resources in subject areas. The “Pathfinders” under the menu item “Searching tools” are especially useful research guides.

Internet Scout Project..... <http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/Archives/index.php>
Search the Archives for web sites about your topic. Librarians and educators “scout” the web looking for sites that provide the best value for students and researchers. 23,902 sites are reviewed and rated.

The Librarian’s Internet Index..... <http://www.lii.org>
All sites are reviewed and annotated. Search by keywords, or use the subject categories listed below the search text box.

Research Beyond Google.. <http://oedb.org/library/college-basics/research-beyond-google>
A short list of some very good websites, selected for their usefulness for college research, listed in broad subject areas such as: Art, Business, Consumer, Economic, Jobs, Finance, Government, International, Medical, Science, and Transportation.

IF YOU MUST USE A SEARCH ENGINE, TRY:

Google Scholar..... <http://scholar.google.com/>
Google Scholar searches only for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers. However, many will be from online databases that CR does not subscribe to, and you will be asked to pay a fee for access. So always check ProQuest and EBSCO first.

Dogpile www.dogpile.com
Ixquick <http://ixquick.com>
Dogpile and Ixquick are “metasearch” engines. Dogpile searches all the major search engines, and Ixquick searches all the minor search engines. Results are listed by relevance and frequency.

GaHooYoogle..... www.gahooyoogle.com
Why search only one when you can search both Yahoo! and Google at the same time? Results are displayed in a split screen, and each side can be scrolled separately. Best sites are usually high on both lists.

Remember that you can ask the Librarian for help at anytime:

VISIT the Library CALL 476-4263

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