



LIBRARY

<http://www.sjcc.edu/library>



Researching Names

This orientation will show you how to find the best information in the shortest amount of time. You will be able to use it as a framework for most of the research that you will do in college. Remember that the librarian is your partner in research; he or she can guide you from beginning to end during your research project.

Reference Books

Reference books are useful for overviews of a topic. The information is authoritative, concise, and often highlights specific aspects of a subject. Reference books must be used in the library; plan to take notes or photocopy the information.

Start your research by consulting the indexes of books such as the following for words such as *names* or *naming* or *onomastics* or *onomatology*.

<i>New Dictionary of American Family Names</i>	Ref CS 2481 .S55 1973
<i>A Dictionary of First Names</i>	Ref CS 2367 .H32 1990
<i>Gale Encyclopedia of Childhood & Adolescence</i>	Ref HQ 772 .G27 1998
<i>African Names</i>	Ref CS 2375 .A33 S74 1993
<i>Hispanic Surnames and Family History</i>	Ref CS 2745 .P55 1996
<i>Muslim Peoples</i>	Ref DS 35.625 .A1 M87
<i>Encyclopedia of China</i>	Ref DS 705 .P47 1999
<i>Encyclopedia of North American Indians</i>	Ref E 76.2 .E53 1996
<i>The Asian American Almanac</i>	Ref E184 .O6 A824 1995
<i>Encyclopedia Latina</i>	Ref E184 .S75 E587
<i>Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History</i>	Ref E 185 .E54 2006
<i>Encyclopedia of Black America</i>	Ref E 185 .E55
<i>Encyclopedia of Black Studies</i>	Ref E 185 .E554 2005
<i>Slavery in the United States</i>	Ref E 441 .S635 2007 v.2

Circulating books

Circulating books can be checked out. They are found in the library's bookstacks. Books develop a topic in detail. You search the [online catalog](#) to find books on your subject. Try some of these words and phrases in the subject search box:

Names	Names, Personal	African Americans – Names
Names, Personal – Africa	Names, Personal – United States	Onomastics
Names, Personal – Asia	Names, Personal – Mexican American	

Magazine, Newspaper and Journal Articles

Magazine, newspaper and journal articles can provide current information on your topic. They can be found through the library's [Databases](#). The following are just a few that the library subscribes to. You can also search the databases from home.

Expanded Academic ASAP

Magazines and academic journals can be found here. Start with a **Subject Guide Search** to find many articles on a topic such as *personal names*; then, take a look at some of the subdivisions listed, such as: *psychological aspects*; *public opinion*; *social aspects*. Next, try an **Advanced Search** to find articles on a specific aspect of a topic. For example, combine search words such as *personal names* and *Chinese*.

African American Experience and Latino American Experience

These databases specialize in African American and Latino American history and culture. They give overviews of topics, as well as biographical sketches, statistics, tables and graphs, history, and more. Try *names* or *naming* as a search term.

Web Sites

Beware of the Web. First try one of the search engines linked from the library Home Page. Click [Internet Tools](#) and then select [Best Websites](#). You'll get fewer, but better quality sites.

[Ipl2: Internet Public Library](#)

These web sites have been evaluated by librarians. Try doing a search on *personal names* or *surnames*.

[Behind the Name: The Etymology and History of First Names](#)

Etymological dictionary of first **names**. The site also features most popular **names**, **namesakes**, name days, suggested **names** for twins, anagram **names**, and a name translator. Created and maintained by a hobbyist.

<http://www.behindthename.com/>

[Popular Baby Names](#)

A compilation of lists of the most popular baby **names**, including top male and female **names** in birth years starting in 1880, in each state starting in 1990, and by decade starting in 1900, and a search engine for finding the popularity of specific names.

<http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/babynames/>

Always remember to ask a Librarian if you need help:

- For assistance in developing a search strategy appropriate to your assignment and thesis.
- To evaluate your sources and to suggest additional research options.
- For assistance with the [Works Cited](#) format.