



Psychology

→ BOOKS

Reference Books

Reference books are a good place to begin your research. They often provide concise overviews of a topic, plus tables, graphs, illustrations, etc. A librarian will help you find appropriate resources on your subject. The following are examples of reference books that provide a good basis, or framework for your topic.

<i>APA Dictionary of Psychology</i>	Ref BF 31 .A63 2007
<i>Magill's Encyclopedia of Social Science: Psychology</i>	Ref BF 31 .M33 2003 v. 1-4
<i>Oxford Companion to the Mind</i>	Ref BF 31 .O94 2004
<i>Encyclopedia of Phobias, Fears, and Anxieties</i>	Ref RC 535 .D63 2008
<i>Chambers Psychiatric Dictionary</i>	Ref RC 437 .H5 2004

Circulating Books

Circulating books can be checked out. They are located in the library's book stacks. Use the library's online catalog to find books. Try a [Keyword search](#) using some of the important words or phrases that describe your specific research topic such as, *generalized anxiety disorder* or *depression in college students*. For very broad topics, such as *antidepressants* or *schizophrenia*, it is better to do a [Subject search](#) to locate books with a substantial amount of information on a topic.

Example: Let's say that you start your catalog search with a Keyword search on the topic of *generalized anxiety disorder*. A small number of books are located. You should then broaden your search by changing to a Subject search and using the more general topic of *anxiety*. More information can be located by looking at the table of contents and indexes in these books, and you will likely find information on *generalized anxiety disorder*.

→ DATABASES

Magazine, newspaper and journal articles provide current information on your topic. Most full-text articles also include the MLA or APA citation. The following are a sample of the many databases that the library carries. Articles that you find while on-campus can be sent to your e-mail to be read or printed later. You can also search the databases from home or any off-campus location. You will be asked to enter your name and seven-digit college ID number before you start searching.

Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection

This database provides access to hundreds of full-text journal articles in the field of psychology and other behavioral sciences. This database defaults to an advanced search. It is not necessary to “select a field;” just type your search terms in the box(s). Options for refining your search to a specific date range or source type are available in the left hand column of your results list. You may also narrow your search by adding additional terms in the search boxes.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context

There are many types of resources in this database - articles from magazines, academic journals, newspapers, viewpoint essays, statistics, websites, audio/video files, and images. Type your topic in the search box at the top of the page. You can use the “Search within page” box on right hand side of the page to add terms that will narrow your search.

Academic Search Complete

The contents of thousands of magazines and academic journals can be searched here. “Advanced Search” allows you to combine keywords to locate articles on specific aspects of a topic, such as, *insomnia* AND *children* or *self esteem* AND *teenagers*. Options for refining your search to a specific date range or source type are available in the left hand column.

WEBSITES

Beware of the Web. If you are not an expert on your topic, don't just search using Google or Wikipedia. Click on [Find Websites](#) on the left hand directory of the Library home page; then, click the arrow on the **Best Websites** tab. Listed here are subject directories to find websites that have been evaluated by subject specialists and library professionals. You'll find fewer, but better quality, sites.

Google is loaded with information – some excellent, some fraudulent. For help in evaluating what you find, go to [Web Evaluation](#) on the Library home page. Also, try some of Google's limiting search tools, such as [Google Scholar](#), for scholarly articles from books and journals, or [Google Advanced search](#), where you can limit your search to more reliable domains such as .edu or .gov or .org.

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO ASK A LIBRARIAN IF YOU NEED HELP WITH:

- Developing a search strategy appropriate to your assignment and thesis.
- Evaluating your sources and finding additional resources.
 - [Citation Help](#)