

Basic Resources and Current Events



Reference Division
Watson Memorial Library
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Natchitoches LA 71497

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When starting research for a paper, speech or presentation, several resources are available to lead the researcher to factual and current information. The following list outlines basic reference resources, which can be used in starting research or finding answers to questions.

Atlases and Gazetteers

These resources provide geographical information on cities, regions, and countries.

<i>Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide</i>	G 1019 R22 Ref. Atlas Case
<i>Louisiana Atlas and Gazetteer</i>	G 1360 D45 Ref. Atlas Case
<i>NASA Atlas of the Solar System</i>	G 1000 G7 Ref. Atlas Case
<i>Oxford Atlas of the World</i>	G 1021 A7545 1997 Ref. Atlas Case
<i>Webster's New Geographical Dictionary</i>	G 103 W45 1988 Ref.
<i>World Fact Book</i>	JN 1 C25 Ref.

Current Events

Events that have happened within the last few months will rarely have books written about them. Other resources, however, can provide information on "news" items.

CQ Almanac – Annual publication compiling the highlights from the *CQ Weekly Report*.
JK 1 C66 Ref.

CQ Researcher – Weekly publication; each issue deals with a current newsworthy topic.
Ask at the Reference Desk

CQ Weekly Report – Weekly publication covering happenings in government and politics.
JK 1 C15 Ref.

Facts on File – A weekly publication summarizing national and international news events.
D 410 F3 Ref.

Databases and Indexes

Several indexes in the Reference Room offer access to information about current and newsworthy events. These indexes provide citations to current periodical literature including some full-text.

Academic Search Premier – Large multi-disciplinary database including some full-text.
Available through the library's web page.

Bayou State Periodical Index – Index of Louisiana periodicals and publications 1985 – 2004.

LexisNexis Academic Universe – Full-text journals, newspapers, & magazines with some local coverage. Available through the library's web page.

Newspaper Source-selected full text for nearly 30 national (U.S.) and international newspapers. The database also contains full text television & radio news transcripts, and selected full text for more than 200 regional (U.S.) newspapers.

New Orleans Times-Picayune Index – Usually has a 3-month lag time. Index Table 2A

New York Times Index – Usually has a 3-month lag time. Index Table 2B

Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature – Monthly index to current periodical literature. Index Table 1B

Reference Universe – Index to material contained in such works as encyclopedias and other reference books. Includes many entries full text. Available thru the library's web page.

Dictionaries

<i>Cassell Dictionary of Slang</i>	PE 3721 .G74 1998 Ref.
<i>Cassell German Dictionary</i>	PF3640 B453 1978 Ref.
<i>Larousse French Dictionary</i>	PC 2640 L32 1971 Ref.
<i>Larousse Spanish Dictionary</i>	PC4640 L39 1996 Ref.
<i>Oxford Latin Dictionary</i>	PA 2365 E5 O9 1982 Ref.
<i>Random House Dictionary of the English Language</i>	PE 1625 R3 Ref.
<i>Webster's Third International Dictionary</i>	PE 1625 W36 Ref.

Encyclopedias

<i>Encyclopedia Britannica</i>	AE 5 E363 Ref.
<i>McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology</i>	Q 121 M3 Ref.
<i>World Book Encyclopedia</i>	AE 5 W55 Ref.

Facts

<i>Europa World Year Book</i>	JN 1 E85 Ref.
<i>Famous First Facts</i>	AG 5 K315 Ref.
<i>Guinness Book of World Records</i>	AG 243 G85 Ref.
<i>Historical Statistics of the United States</i>	HA 202 B87 1975 Ref.
<i>Statistical Abstract of the United States</i>	HA 202 U65 Ref.
<i>Time Almanac (continues Information Please Almanac)</i>	AY 64 I55 Ref.
<i>Whitaker's Almanac (British)</i>	AY 754 W5 Ref.
<i>World Almanac and Book of Facts</i>	AY 67 N5 W7 Ref.
<i>World of Learning</i>	AS 2 W6 Ref.

Quotations

<i>Bartlett's Familiar Quotations</i>	PN 6081 B27 Ref.
<i>Home Book of Quotations</i>	PN 6081 S73 Ref.
<i>Respectfully Quoted</i>	PN 6081 R4351 1989 Ref.