

Finding What You Need ...

ESL Sources

Use the library's resources to help you as you learn a new language and get to know SCCC.



REFERENCE BOOKS

Dictionaries

R 423 Mer 2000 Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary

R 423 Wor World Book Dictionary

A good dictionary helps you spell, define and learn the way words are used. We have several, but the two listed above are good choices for college students.

Encyclopedias

R 031 Enc Encyclopedia Americana

R 031 Wor World Book Encyclopedia

An encyclopedia gives you an introduction to a topic. The World Book is a good introduction to encyclopedias. The Americana will help you as your English improves.

The library also has dictionaries and encyclopedias for the subjects students learn in college. These will help you as you enter college classes. We also have dictionaries for many languages.

Thesaurus

R 423.1 Rog Roget's Thesaurus

A thesaurus will tell you how words are used and suggested different ways to phrase an idea.

Usage Dictionaries

R 427.973 Cha Dictionary of American Slang

R 427.973 Dic Dictionary of American Regional English

Spoken English differs from written English; English in popular use differs

from the English you use in class. Use slang and regional dictionaries to understand different ways of speaking.

BOOKS

Use the online catalog to find books. Most of our ESL, reading and writing books are in the 400 section of the library. You will also find versions of many fiction books in a form that people new to English can easily read.

PERIODICAL INDEXES AND ONLINE INFORMATION

You will be using our online databases when you take college courses. In the meantime, you will find the following databases helpful if you are looking for newspaper and magazine articles;

Academic Search—Use this database to find magazine articles on many topics. Many are full-text. *

Newsbank—Use this to find full-text articles from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania newspapers.

ProQuest—This database also has magazine articles, as well as many full-text articles from the Wall Street Journal and New York Times.

* Full-text—the entire article is available from the computer workstation.

We also have Time, Newsweek and the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and several local papers in the library. Reading these magazines and newspapers regularly will help you improve your English and learn about American culture.

The following databases are good reference sources;

Credo—this has many online dictionaries, encyclopedias and a thesaurus.

Facts on File—this database is like an online encyclopedia in that it has articles about many topics, especially in history, science, careers and medicine.

INTERNET

These websites are particularly helpful for ESL students.

Activities for ESL/EFL Students—a4esl.org

California Distance Learning Project Adult Learning Activities—
<http://www.cdlponline.org/>

Dictionary of Informal, Slang and Idiomatic Phrases in Spoken English -
www.geocities.com/informalenglish/dictindex.html *

Learning English (British Council) - www.learnenglish.org.uk

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English—[//www.ldoceonline.com/](http://www.ldoceonline.com/)

Manythings.org—www.manythings.org

Martindale's The Reference Desk—www.martindalecenter.com

This is an online reference center. The 'Language Center' has many encyclopedias and dictionaries.

OWL (Online Writing Lab): ESL Resources—owl.english.purdue.edu/ (go to 'English as a Second Language.')

Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab—www.esl-lab.com

Selected Links for ESL/EFL Students—iteslj.org/ESL.html

SlangSite—www.slangsite.com *

Spelling City—www.spellingcity.com
(this site is for children, but it is not too juvenile)

Using English (British site)— www.usingenglish.com

VOA: Learning American English with News (Voice of America) —
www.voanews.com/specialenglish/index.cfm

* slang sites often include frank language.

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