

# Finding What You Need ... About Science

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Science can be challenging; its study involves the exploration of new concepts and words, and requires the student to keep aware of changes. Careful research will make studying easier.



## REFERENCE WORKS

Use specialized encyclopedias and dictionaries to find background information and define unfamiliar concepts and technical terms. Examples;

R 611 Gra Anatomy of the Human Body  
More commonly known as Gray's Anatomy

R 575.6 Kin Dictionary of Genetics

R 591.503 Enc Encyclopedia of Animal Behavior

R 570.3 Rit Encyclopedia of Biology

R 540.3 Ret Encyclopedia of Chemistry

R 551. 5 Encyclopedia of Climate and Weather

R 530. 03 Ros Encyclopedia of Physics

R 551.46 Ell Encyclopedia of the Sea

R 539.703 Ren Facts on File Dictionary of Atomic and Nuclear Physics

R 503 MCG McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Science and Technology

R 503 Mcg McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology

The McGraw-Hill books are a good way to get an orientation to science and technology issues.

R 503 Tre The Nature of Science: An A to Z Guide to the Laws and Principles Governing our Universe

R 550.3 Oxf Oxford Companion to the Earth

R 509 Oxf Oxford Companion to the History of Modern Science

This is a good introduction to the story behind science the people and influences that have affected science.

R 503 Van Van Nostrand's Science Encyclopedia

Another good source of background information

R 520.3 Dar Universal Book of Astronomy, from the Andromeda Galaxy to the Zone of Avoidance

## **BOOKS**

Use the on-line catalog to find books.

- Start with broad terms such as 'chemistry' or 'physics.'
- Narrow your search; 'chemistry and analytic' or 'biology and classification,' for example.
- Use the 'Browse' option to see how the catalog organizes broad subjects; this helps you focus your search.
- Search for books on a scientific specialty, such as biochemistry.
- For introductory works, look for books that have 'principles,' 'fundamentals,' or 'introduction' in the title.
- For books that discuss the technical aspects of science, look for terms such as 'experiments,' 'methodology' or 'handbooks, manuals.'

Most of the science collection is located in the 500-600 area of the library.

## **PERIODICAL INDEXES AND ONLINE INFORMATION**

Use the following indexes to locate articles in magazines and newspapers.

O – online            P - Print

Academic Search Premier (O)

Use this database to find magazine and newspaper articles. Limiting your search to peer reviewed information will help find research articles.

CINAHL (O)

This database lets you find articles in nursing and allied health literature.

Credo (O)

This online reference source has several dictionaries, including science dictionaries.

Encyclopedia of Life Sciences (O)

This full-text encyclopedia provides current, professional information on the life sciences.

Facts on File (O)

This full-text database provides definitions, essays and a science timeline.

General Science Index (P)

This index provides citations to articles in the professional science literature and medical journals.

Medline (O)

This resource provides research articles, mostly full-text, in the medical and biological sciences.

ProQuest (O)

Use the 'Research Library' lets you to find scholarly research information. You can limit your search to the 'Science' and/or 'Health' modules.

Science Select (O)

This database is an excellent place to start looking for science articles; it is all science, all full-text and you can limit your search to scholarly articles.

The library subscribes to science and medical journals. See the list of "Periodicals by Subject."

**INTERNET**

The Internet is an important tool in academic research; information can be updated quickly. Scientific organizations have websites to share new developments with members. Journals often place items from current issues on their websites. Be sure to evaluate for reliability.

Academy of Natural Sciences – [www.ansp.org/library/digital\\_library/index.php](http://www.ansp.org/library/digital_library/index.php)

American Geological Institute – [www.agiweb.org](http://www.agiweb.org)

American Institute of Physics – [www.aip.org](http://www.aip.org)

American Museum of Natural History - [www.amnh.org](http://www.amnh.org)  
or <http://library.amnh.org/>

American Physical Society – [www.aps.org](http://www.aps.org)

BioMed Central—[www.biomedcentral.com](http://www.biomedcentral.com)

Complete Works of Charles Darwin Online—[www.darwin-online.org.uk](http://www.darwin-online.org.uk)

Earth Portal—[www.earthportal.org](http://www.earthportal.org)

Ecology WWW Page—  
[www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~brach/Ecology-WWW.html](http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~brach/Ecology-WWW.html)

Environmental Sciences – [www.library.ucsb.edu/subj/envIRON.html](http://www.library.ucsb.edu/subj/envIRON.html)

Federation of American Scientists (discusses political and ethical issues related to science) – [www.fas.org](http://www.fas.org)

Forensic Science Research Guide -  
[www.marshall.edu/library/guides/forensic.asp](http://www.marshall.edu/library/guides/forensic.asp)

Human Genome Project—  
[www.ornl.gov/sci/techresources/Human\\_Genome/home.shtml](http://www.ornl.gov/sci/techresources/Human_Genome/home.shtml)

Jane Goodall – [www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org)

Martindale's The Reference Desk – [www.martindalecenter.com](http://www.martindalecenter.com)

NASA Homepage – [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

NASA Human Spaceflight – [spaceflight.nasa.gov](http://spaceflight.nasa.gov)

National Academy of Sciences – [www.nas.edu/](http://www.nas.edu/)

National Academies Press—[www.nap.edu/](http://www.nap.edu/)

Natural Resources: Research Information Pages (environmental) –  
[www4.ncsu.edu/~leung/nrrips.html](http://www4.ncsu.edu/~leung/nrrips.html)

Nature Serve – [www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org)

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection – [www.state.nj.us/dep](http://www.state.nj.us/dep)

New Jersey Geological Survey – [www.state.nj.us/dep/njgs](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/njgs)

Nine Planets: A Multimedia Tour of the Solar System –  
[www.nineplanets.org](http://www.nineplanets.org)

Pew Center of Global Climate Change – [www.pewclimate.org](http://www.pewclimate.org)

Plants of the New Jersey Pinelands (Pine Barrens) –  
[www.georgian.edu/pinebarrens](http://www.georgian.edu/pinebarrens)

PubMed – [www.pubmed.gov](http://www.pubmed.gov)

Public Library of Science—[www.plos.org](http://www.plos.org)

Science.gov—[www.science.gov](http://www.science.gov)

Science Niche: Educational Resources for Science Teachers and Students –  
[www.scienceniche.com](http://www.scienceniche.com)

Tree of Life – [tolweb.org/tree](http://tolweb.org/tree)

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute WWW Server – [www.whoi.edu](http://www.whoi.edu)

Please see a librarian if you need help.  
Angela Camack—7/09