Assignment # 4: Using Reference Resources Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Learning Goals**: Become familiar with the purpose, characteristics, basic types and use of print and online reference-type resources. Understand the difference between subject-specific and general reference sources. Cite articles from reference sources in MLA format.

**Instructions**: In this assignment you will use both print and online reference resources and both general and subject-specific resources. You can use the library catalog to identify reference books, or browse the Reference shelves in the call numbers you already identified for your research topic or ask for help at the reference desk.

Please use the same topic for the entire assignment. **DO NOT** use books that are located on the circulating bookshelves in the library.

**Part 1. Using General Reference Resources**

Use the **World Book Encyclopedia** (In Print), located on the **Reference shelves**, call number **AE5 .W55 2008**. Use the index volume to find the volume and page numbers for the information on your research topic. Note: You can compare the information you find in the World Book Encyclopedia (general encyclopedia) to the information you find later in this assignment on subject specific encyclopedias.

a. What is the arrangement of this encyclopedia?

Circle one: Alphabetical Topical Chronological

b. What topic(s) did you look up in this book?

c. Under what heading did you find information on your topic? (It may be different than what you originally looked up). \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

d. Complete an MLA Format citation for the article you found in the World Book Encyclopedia.

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**Part 2: Exploring Subject Reference sources**

Instructions: **Locate three different Subject Reference Sources for your topic**. You do not need to find all types and you can use more than one example of the same type if they are on different subjects. Examine the summary of descriptions of the different types (examples: dictionaries, directories, encyclopedias, gazetteers, guidebooks, handbooks, manuals or yearbooks).

To accomplish this you can:

Use call numbers that can be identified in previous LIB 1 assignments. Search the Library Catalog ( example Subject or Keyword Search: history – encyclopedias) Browse ( walk around and look) the **Reference book shelves** by LC call number, or ask the Reference Librarian on duty for assistance.

Remember to consider the broader subjects related to your topic. Use the index located in the back of your encyclopedia to look up a specific section of your topic.

**Locate Three Different Subject Reference Sources For Your Topic**

Subject Reference Book 1: Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Author / Editor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pub. Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Call Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Describe **how and why** you selected this book.

Describe the book: Type of Reference Book: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_How Many volumes?\_\_\_

What subjects are covered in the book?

How is the book arranged? (by topic. Alphabetical order, by date, etc.)

Describe the part of the book that was relevant: Give the author of the article ( if listed), article title and page numbers of an article or selection on your topic.

Subject Reference Book 2: Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Author / Editor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pub. Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Call Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Describe **how and why** you selected this book.

Describe the book: Type of Reference Book: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_How Many volumes?\_\_\_

What subjects are covered in the book?

How is the book arranged? (by topic. Alphabetical order, by date, etc.)

Describe the part of the book that was relevant: Give the author of the article ( if listed), article title and page numbers of an article or selection on your topic.

Subject Reference Book 3: Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Author / Editor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pub. Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Call Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Describe **how and why** you selected this book.

Describe the book: Type of Reference Book: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_How Many volumes?\_\_\_

What subjects are covered in the book?

How is the book arranged? (by topic. Alphabetical order, by date, etc.)

Describe the part of the book that was relevant: Give the author of the article (if listed), article title and page numbers of an article or selection on your topic.

Types of Reference Books Exercise

Information can be obtained from various types of reference resources. After reviewing the basic types of reference sources chart, **name the type of reference source** in which you would probably find the information listed below. The same type of reference source in which you would probably find the information listed below. The same type may be used more than once, and the information can be found in more than one type of source. **Please refer to your reference handout for a list of reference types.**

**Type of Reference Source**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Meanings and Pronunciation of the word “archetype”  | Dictionary |
| A brief survey of World War II |  |
| Newspaper articles from the 2000 Presidential Elections |  |
| Definitions of a term in Psychology  |  |
| Location of Mt. Saint Helens  |  |
| Definition of the word “Samaritan”  |  |
| Brief facts about Norway  | Encyclopedia |
| Recent map of Russia |  |
| Brief description of Mother Teresa’s life |  |
| The quote “Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow” in Shakespeare’s plays  |  |
| Contact information for the American Dental Association |  |
| The population of Texas according to the 2000 census |  |
| Information on the U.S. Supreme court case “Brown v. Board of Education” |  |
| Address of the Environmental Protection Agency |  |
| Travel information for Brazil  |  |
| Description of the U.S. Department of Justice |  |
| Location of Mount Everest | Atlas |
| List of books or short stories by Edgar Allan Poe |  |
| Number of Latinos in California according to the 2000 census |  |
| Definitions of a term found in Nursing |  |