

The Top Print Library Reference Tools for Grades 8-12

The Reference Librarian—Ask us, we can help. Students and teachers can contact us at bwassignments@einetwork.net or 412-882-6622 for assistance with assignments.

General Facts: Encyclopedias/Atlases/Almanacs

World Book—This 22- volume set is designed to meet the reference and study needs of students of all ages. Authoritative entries are listed alphabetically and are cross-referenced. Maps, diagrams and readability make this a great tool for getting started. (updated annually)

World Almanac —This annual publication is focused on providing statistics and quick facts on the US, as well as some world facts. A general index and table of contents make it easy to browse general subject areas. (updated annually)

National Geographic Family Reference Atlas (3rd Edition)—Organized by both geographic topic (oceans and space) and continent, this easy-to-use atlas provides both a map of the country and key maps depicting areas of population, land use and agriculture, industry and mining, and temperature. Cross-referencing can be done by place name. The atlas also has a glossary of geographic terms.

English: Literature Criticism-a sampling

Facts on File -- Facts On File is an award-winning publisher of print, eBooks, and online reference materials. They specialize in core subject areas, such as history, science, literature, geography, health, and more.

Partial List of FOF titles at Whitehall Public Library

- Banned Books: Literature Suppressed on Political, Religious, Sexual and Social Grounds
- Companion to American Poetry (2 vol)
- Companion to British Poetry (2 vol)
- Companion to Classical Drama
- Companion to the American Novel (3 vol)
- Companion to the American Short Story
- Companion to the British Short Story
- Companion to the French Novel
- Companion to the World Novel 1900 to the Present
- Companion to World Poetry 1900 to the Present
- Dictionary of Allusions

- Dictionary of World Mythology and Legend
- Library of American Literature: Critical Companion
 - Arthur Miller
 - Edgar Allan Poe
 - Emily Dickinson
 - Ernest Hemingway
 - F. Scott Fitzgerald
 - Flannery O'Connor
 - Kurt Vonnegut
 - Mark Twain
 - Nathaniel Hawthorne
 - Robert Frost
 - William Faulkner

- Encyclopedia of African-American Literature
- Encyclopedia of American Literature (Revised-4vols)
- Hispanic-American Literature
- Encyclopedia of Gothic Literature
- Student Encyclopedia of American Literary Characters

American Writers: A Collection of Literary Biography (Series)—produced by Charles Scribner’s Son, this authoritative series provides information about the lives, careers and works of American writers. Each alphabetical entry includes a selected bibliography and a list of critical biographic studies. Multi-volume with supplements

British Writers (Series) --produced by Charles Scribner’s Sons as a companion to the American Writers series. The publisher describes it as “critical anthology.” Multi-volume with supplements

The Oxford Companion to English Literature (7th Edition) 2009—Revised and expanded, its aim is “to provide a lively and authoritative source of reference.” Contemporary writers of children’s literature, science fiction, travel writing and fantasy have been included together with explorations of the ideas that have influenced their work. Earlier entries “have been revised to reflect recent developments in literary research.”

MLA Handbook (7th edition)—This easy-to-use style manual addresses the basic question of how to begin a research paper, and also the question of plagiarism, page numbering, and citing bibliographic information and footnotes. It explains how to cite difficult sources, such as an article from a data base with two authors.

Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations (17th edition)—This 1,431-page book is organized both alphabetically by author and indexed by first words of the quotation, with full citation of title and source. In addition, Bartlett’s has included more than 100 additional authors including Maya Angelou, Margaret Atwood, J.K. Rowling, and Jerry Seinfeld.

History/Economics:

Encyclopedia of Revolutionary America (Facts on File) 2010—comprehensive coverage of the continental US and North America. This book uses selected primary documents, general bibliography, and maps to present the information.

Encyclopedia of Terrorism (2003) – This book provides detailed discussions of the who, what, where, when, and why of terrorism, including the September 11 attacks. The encyclopedia is organized alphabetically, but also includes a Reader’s Guide which classifies entries into 32 general topical categories from animal rights terrorist groups to terrorism and the media.

Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1957—This second volume in the series (1961) was produced by the Bureau of the Census to provide historical information on economic and social development in the US. Subject areas include migration, national income and wealth, agriculture, communications, and banking and finance. Where else would you find information on the total enrollment in public schools in 1911?

The Value of a Dollar: 1860-2004— This third edition records the actual prices of thousands of items that consumers purchased from the Civil War to the present, along with facts about investment options and income opportunities. A Pricing Trends section was added that depicts the cost of certain items in historical and today’s dollars graphically. Cost of baseball in 1932@\$0.95.

Science

Encyclopedia of Forensic Science, Revised Edition (Facts on File 2008) – This book is organized alphabetically and entries are cross-referenced on subjects from crime scene investigations to scopolamine, which is used as a sedative or a poison. There is also a “Top Ten” Cases in Forensic Science section. The book uses many charts, diagrams and graphics to support the information. The appendices include bibliographies and web resources, and common abbreviations and acronyms.

Career & College

US Department of Labor Occupational Outlook 2010-2011—Produced by the Department of Labor and the US Bureau of Statistics, this book addresses the outlook and projections for careers, sources for education training, and finding and applying for jobs.

Barron’s Profiles of American Colleges 2011—In-depth profiles of more than 1,650 schools, including a comprehensive index of college majors. The guide includes a selector rating of each school based on the SAT/ACT scores.

Fiske Guide to Colleges 2011—In-depth profiles of colleges that Fiske considers “the best and most interesting.” The book also includes it’s pick of the 2011 Best Buy for college education.

Insider’s Guide to the Colleges 2011—Compiled by the staff of the Yale Daily News, this is what students turn to when they want to know what really goes on at their prospective college campuses.

Kaplan—SAT, GRE, ACT prep books. Included are SAT Subject test books (2010-2011) including Biology E/M, Chemistry, Literature, Physics, US History, and World History. There are also Kaplan AP Biology and US History study books.