

RESEARCH GUIDE

Encyclopedias - Subject

George Mason University Libraries

Subject encyclopedias are an extremely useful resource both for gaining a broad knowledge of unfamiliar fields and for quickly browsing through areas of research within a given field. Therefore, they are logical places at which all research outside your primary field should begin. The purpose of this guide is to provide several examples of subject encyclopedias in various disciplines. This list is by no means comprehensive, but the examples should illustrate general sections in the reference collection in which more specific encyclopedias may appear. The guide is organized according to the following outline:

General Encyclopedias

Subject Encyclopedias

Humanities

- Art
- History
- Literature and Language
- Performing Arts
- Philosophy and Religion

Social/Human Sciences

- Anthropology
- Business and Economics
- Communication Studies
- Conflict Resolution
- Education
- Geography
- Law
- Nursing
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Policy/Public Administration
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Sports
- Women's Studies

Science and Technology

- Natural Sciences
- Physical Sciences

Reminder: if the call number begins with "ref," the item is located in reference

General Encyclopedias:

Columbia Encyclopedia.....Ref AG5 .C725 1993 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedia Britannica.....Ref AE5 .E363 2002 (Fenwick, Online)

Subject Encyclopedias:

Humanities:

Glossary of Cultural Theory.....Ref HM621 .B76 2002 (Fenwick)
St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture.....Ref E169.1 S764 (JCL)

-Art

Dictionary of Art.....Ref N31 .D5 1996 (Fenwick, Online)

-History

Dictionary of American History.....Ref E174 .D52 2003 (Fenwick)
Dictionary of the Middle Ages.....Ref D114 .D5 1982 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedia of Asian History.....Ref DS31 .E53 1988 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedia of the Renaissance.....Ref CB361 .E52 1999 (Fenwick)
Oxford Classical Dictionary.....Ref DE5 .O9 1996 (Fenwick)

-Literature and Language

Contemporary Authors.....Z1224 .C58 (Fenwick, Online)
Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics.....Ref P29 E.48 1994 (Fenwick)
Folklore: An Encyclopedia of Beliefs, Customs, Tales, Music.....Ref GR35 .F63 1997 (Fenwick)
Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism.....(Online)
McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of World Drama.....Ref PN1625 .M3 1984 (Fenwick)
New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics.....Ref PN1021 .N39 1993 (Fenwick)
Oxford Companion to American Literature.....Ref PS21 .H3 1995 (Fenwick Desk)
Oxford Companion to English Literature.....Ref PR19 .O94 2000 (Fenwick Desk)

-Performing Arts: Film, Theater, Music and Dance

International Dictionary of Films and Filmmakers.....Ref PN1997.8 .I58 1990 (Fenwick)
International Dictionary of Theatre.....Ref PN2035 .I49 1992 (Fenwick)
International Encyclopedia of Dance.....Ref GV1585 .I586 1998 (Fenwick)
New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians.....Ref ML100 .N48 2001 (JCL Music, Online)

-Philosophy and Religion

Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy.....Ref B51 .R68 1998 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedia of Religion.....Ref BL31 .E46 1987 (Fenwick, JCL)

Social/Human Sciences:

International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences.....Ref H41 .I58 2001 (Fenwick)
International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences.....Ref H41 .I6 (Fenwick, JCL)

-Anthropology

Encyclopedia of World Cultures.....Ref GN307 .E53 1991 (Fenwick, JCL)
Handbook of American Indians.....Ref E76.2 .H36 (Fenwick, JCL)

-Business and Economics

Blackwell Encyclopedia of Management.....Ref HD30.15 .B463 1997 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedia of American Economic History.....Ref HC103 .E52 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedia of Banking and Finance.....HG151 .M8 1994eb (Online)
Encyclopedia of Small Business Resources.....HD2346 .U5 G85 1984 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedic Dictionary of Accounting and Finance.....Ref HF1001 .S525 1989 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedic Dictionary of International Finance and Banking..Ref HG3880 .S55 2001 (Fenwick)
McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Economics.....Ref HB61 .E55 (Fenwick)
New Palgrave: A Dictionary of Economics.....Ref HB61 .N49 2002 (Fenwick)
Prentice Hall Real Estate Investor's Encyclopedia.....Ref HD1365 .B55 1989 (Fenwick)
Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations.....Ref G63 .W67 2001 (Fenwick, JCL)

-Communication Studies

Encyclopedia of Communication and Information.....Ref P87 .E53 2002 (Fenwick)
International Encyclopedia of Communications.....Ref P87 .I5 1989 (Fenwick, JCL)

-Conflict Resolution

Encyclopedia of Conflict Resolution.....Ref HM136 .B783 1997 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace, and Conflict.....Ref HM291 .E625 1999 (Fenwick, Stacks)

-Education

International Encyclopedia of Education.....Ref LB15 .I569 1994 (JCL)
International Encyclopedia of Higher Education.....Ref LB15 .I67 (Fenwick)

-Geography

Columbia Gazetteer of North America.....Ref E35 .C65 200 (Fenwick Desk)
Columbia Gazetteer of the World.....Ref G103.5 .C645 1998 (Fenwick)

-Law

American Jurisprudence.....Ref KF385 .A7 (Fenwick)
West's Encyclopedia of American Law.....Ref KF154 .W47 1998 (Fenwick, JCL)

-Nursing and Health Sciences

Encyclopedia of Public Health.....Ref RA423 .E53 2002 (Fenwick)
Gale Encyclopedia of Alternative Medicine.....Ref R733 .G34 2001 (Fenwick)
Gale Encyclopedia of Nursing and Allied Health.....Ref RT21 .G353 2002 (Fenwick)

-Political Science

- Encyclopedia of American Political History.....Ref E183 .E5 1984 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedia of the American Legislative System.....Ref JF501 .E53 1994 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedia of the American Presidency.....Ref JK511 .E53 1994 (Fenwick, JCL)
Encyclopedia of U.S. Foreign Relations.....Ref E183.7 .E53 1997 (Fenwick)

-Psychology

- Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology & Behavioral Sci.....Ref BF31 .E525 2001 (Fenwick, online)
Encyclopedia of Mental Health.....Ref RA790 .E53 1998 (Fenwick)
Handbook of Psychology.....Ref BF121 .H1955 2003 (Fenwick)

Public Policy/Public Administration

- Encyclopedia of American Public Policy.....Ref JK468 .P64 J33 1999 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedia of Public Administration and Public Policy.....Ref JK9 .E526 2003 (Fenwick)
International Encyclopedia of Public Policy and Administration.....Ref H97 .I574 1998 (Fenwick)

-Social Work

- Encyclopedia of Social Work.....Ref HV35 .S6 (Fenwick, Stacks, JCL)

-Sociology

- The Asian American Encyclopedia.....Ref E184 .O6 A827 1995 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History.....Ref E185 .E54 1996 (Fenwick, JCL)
Encyclopedia of Sociology.....Ref HM425 .E5 2000 (Fenwick, JCL)
International Encyclopedia of Marriage and Family.....Ref HQ9 .E52 2003 (Fenwick)
The Latino Encyclopedia.....Ref E184 .S75 L357 1996 (Fenwick)
Reference Library of Black America.....Ref E185 .R435 1994 (Fenwick)
Survey of Social Science.....Ref HM17 .S86 1994 (Fenwick, JCL)

-Sports

- Encyclopedia of World Sport.....Ref GV567 .E56 1996 (Fenwick)

-Women's Studies

- Routledge International Encyclopedia of Women.....Ref HQ1115 .R69 2000 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedia of Feminist Theories.....Ref HQ1190 .E63 2000 (Fenwick)

Science and Technology:

- Encyclopedia of Physical Science and Technology.....Ref Q123 .E497 2002 (Fenwick)
McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology.....Ref Q121 .M3 2002 (Fenwick)
Van Nostrand's Scientific Encyclopedia.....Ref Q121 .V3 2002 (Fenwick)

-Natural Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Geology, etc.)

- Encyclopedia of Earth System Science.....Ref QE5 .E514 1991 (Fenwick)
Encyclopedia of Environmental Science and Engineering.....Ref TD9 .E5 1998 (Fenwick)

Encyclopedia of Human Biology.....Ref QP11 .E53 1997 (Fenwick)
 Encyclopedia of Immunology.....Ref QR180.4 .E53 1998 (Fenwick)
 Encyclopedia of Life Sciences.....Ref QH302.5 .E54 2002 (Fenwick)
 Encyclopedia of Microbiology.....Ref QR9 .E53 2000 (Fenwick)
 Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia.....Ref QL7 .G7813 2004 (JCL)
 Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology.....Ref TP9 .E685 1992 (Fenwick)
 Macmillan Encyclopedia of Chemistry.....Ref QD4 .M33 1997 (Fenwick)
 McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Earth Science.....Ref QE5 .M364 2003eb (online)

-Physical Sciences (Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, etc.)

Encyclopedia of Applied Physics.....Ref QC5 .E543 1991 (Fenwick)
 Encyclopedia of Computer Science and Engineering.....QA76.15 .E48 1982 (Fenwick)
 Encyclopedia of Materials Science and Engineering.....Ref TZ402 .E53 1986 (Fenwick)
 Encyclopaedia of Mathematics.....Ref QA5 .M3713 1987 (Fenwick)
 Encyclopedia of Microcomputers.....Ref QA76.15 .E52 1988 (Fenwick)
 Encyclopedia of Physics.....Ref QC5 .M15 1996 (Fenwick)
 Encyclopedia of Statistical Sciences.....Ref QA276.14 .E5 1982 (Fenwick)
 Handbook of Information Technology and Office Systems.....QA76 .H2784 1986 (Fenwick)
 International Encyclopedia of Robotics.....Ref TJ210.4 .I57 1988 (Fenwick)
 Macmillan Encyclopedia of Physics.....Ref QC5 .M15 1996 (Fenwick)
 McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Electronics and Computers.....TK7804 .M43 1988 (JCL)
 Standard Handbook for Electrical Engineers.....Ref TK151 .S83 2000 (Fenwick)
 Systems and Control Encyclopedia.....Ref QA402 .S968 1987 (Fenwick)
 Wiley Encyclopedia of Energy and the Environment.....Ref TJ163.235 .W55 1997 (Fenwick)