

Transcript: How to find reference materials

Reference materials can help you find facts, definitions, or a quick overview of a topic or an area of study. UNB Libraries' have great collections of dictionaries, encyclopedias, guides, handbooks, standards, and more. Available online and in print, reference materials can help you get your research off to a great start.

There are two main ways to find reference materials at the library: the research guides and the "e-encyclopedias, etc." tab.

Research guides pull together recommended library resources for most subjects taught at UNB and STU. You can find them right on the library's home page. If your instructor is using the D2L Brightspace learning management system, you may find a link to your subject or course guide through your course in D2L.

Start on the library home page, www.lib.unb.ca, scroll down to "Research by Subject," and choose a subject from the list of research guides. (Go to the "All Research Guides" link, if you don't see your subject in the list.)

Let's look at a research guide example. I can select the recommended electronic materials from the "Top Reference Materials" in the Psychology Guide or I can dig deeper within one of the detailed guides on the left-hand side.

The second tab in the psychology guide is labeled "Quick Information Sources," but you may see it labeled in other guides as "Reference Sources" or "Encyclopedias." Under this tab, you will find recommended resources that are available in print and online. The online sources will be linked, just like this example of the **DSM-5 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders**, where you can simply click the link to access the resource. Books will have a location and a call number attached, such as this one—**APA Handbook of Research Methods in Psychology [HIL-REF BF76.5 .A73 2012 v.1 - v. 3]**, which enables you to retrieve it from the stacks.

For more help with your research, contact us at the Research Help Desk (in person, via instant chat, via text message, or phone) or ask your subject librarian whose name and contact information appear in every research guide. Also, check out our research help page located under the "Help" tab. This page is full of research tips and includes links to useful videos.