FINDING REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference Databases: CREDO Reference, CQ Researcher, Gale Biography in Context, Britannica

Other databases that have reference materials but are not covered in this guide: CQ Encyclopedia of American Government, African American Experience, MasterFILE Premier, Health & Wellness Resource Center, Home Improvement Reference Center

**Why use Reference?** Reference materials provide background information or quick facts on a topic. They can be used as a starting point for a research project or to help explain or expand on a topic from your textbook or classroom instruction. Generally, reference materials are not read cover to cover like other books. Types of reference materials: dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, timelines, biographical outlines, atlas & maps, etc.

**What are databases?** Databases are a collection of published materials. They can be a collection of a type of material (books, articles, videos, etc.) or on a specific topic (health care, business, science, etc.)

**What are keywords?** Keywords are the main ideas of your topic. They can be a single word or a short phrase. *If you need help developing a list of keywords for your topic, please ask for help from the library.*

**Searching CREDO Reference**

- From the library homepage (https://library.ivytech.edu/valpolibrary), click on the A-Z list of Databases.

  **Quick Links**

  For Students:

  - A-Z List of Databases
  - IvyCat (for books in the library)
  - IvyTILT (Research Tutorial)
  - Reserve a Group Study Room

- On the next page, click on “C” or scroll down the page and click on CREDO Reference.
The CREDO Reference database has a large collection of reference materials on a variety of topics. Everything from agriculture to technology. To browse the database **by subject**, click on **browse** at the top of the page, then choose titles to see a full list of electronic books.

You will see a list of **subject categories** on the left side of the screen. Click on the subject to see titles in the category.
• Scroll through the list of titles, or enter a keyword in the search box to narrow the list to a more specific topic. Click on a title to access the electronic book.

![Search Box](image1)

**Titles**

50 Classics Series: 50 Economics Classics
From Karl Marx to Naomi Klein, from The Wealth of Nations to Piketty's Capital, here are on finance and world economy distilled.

![Book Cover](image2)

Basic Economics: A Common Sense Guide to the Economy
In this fifth edition of Basic Economics, Thomas Sowell revises and updates his popular economics, bringing the world into clearer focus through a basic understanding of the principles and how they explain our lives. Drawing on lively examples from around the u

![Contents](image3)

• On the next page, below the description and information about the book, you will see links to chapters or sections. You can click on the link to jump to a chapter or enter a keyword in the search box to find a specific entry.

![Search Box](image4)

• You can search the CREDO Reference database by keyword for your topic. Remember: keywords are the main points of your topic. They can be a single word or a short phrase. Please ask for help if you are unsure of what keywords are good for your topic. Enter your keywords in the search box at the top of the home page. For this database you will want to keep your terms broad, for this example I used: microeconomics.
• You will see your results on the next page. You might also see a **topic page** which provides a short summary of the topic. Click on the title or continue to read the entry.

• You may see a **mind map** on the left side of the screen which shows connections to other topics. You may want to use this mind map tool when developing a research topic.

• You can use the filters on the left side of the screen to help narrow the results by subject, media, date and length of entry.
• Scroll through the results list and click on the **title** to read an entry.

529 results about microeconomics

[Microeconomics]

From *The American Economy: A Historical Encyclopedia*

The study of the decision-making processes of consumers and producers and their interaction in markets. Since the 1930s microeconomics. The latter focuses on the economy as a whole and the determination of aggregates including the price

375 words from ABC-CLIO
Key concepts: Economics Microsocieties Supply and demand Microeconomics Perfect competition

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Microeconomics

From *Gale Encyclopedia of U.S. Economic History*

• Use the tools at the top right of the page to print or email the entry.

• You will see a citation for the entry at the bottom of the page. Make sure you are checking the citations created by the database against another citation guide for accuracy.

Searching CQ Researcher

- From the library homepage (https://library.ivytech.edu/valpolibrary), click on the A-Z list of Databases.

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- On the next page, click on “C” or scroll down the page and click on CQ Researcher.

A-Z List of Databases

C

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- CINAHL with Full-Text
- CQ Encyclopedia of American Government
- CQ Researcher
- Communication & Mass Media Complete (EBSCO)
- Contemporary Authors
- CREDO Reference

- The CQ Researcher database provides in-depth coverage of current events. Full-length articles are written by experienced journalists, are fact-checked and include an overview, historical background, chronology, pro/con feature, plus resources for additional research. Graphics, photos and short "sidebar" features round out the reports.

- To browse the database by subject click on Browse Topics at the top of the page.
You will see a list of subjects in alphabetical order. Click on a subject to see the related reports.

**BROWSE REPORTS BY TOPIC**

- Agriculture
- Arts, Culture and Sports
- Business and Economics
- Defense and National Security
- Education
- Employment and Labor

The list of reports will be in date order with the most recent first. Click on the title to view the report.

**BROWSE REPORTS BY TOPIC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stolen Antiquities</td>
<td>Nov. 10, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding the Arts</td>
<td>Jul. 14, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future of TV</td>
<td>Apr. 11, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities Education</td>
<td>Dec. 5, 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each report will have a topic question below the title of the report. You can jump to a section using the links on the left side of the page.
The overview, background, current situation and outlook sections will describe the topic in-depth and provide a history on the topic. The pro/con section will have two opposing opinions from experts.

The bibliography section will have a list of references the author used to create the report. This can be a good place to find additional resources for your paper or project.
Bibliography

Books

Chen, Johnson, Diversity in Disney Films: Critical Essays on Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Sexuality and Disability, McFarland, 2013. An assistant professor of American culture at Michigan State University edits an essay collection about diversity in Disney films, including race, gender, sexuality, masculinity and disability.

Cones, John W., Patterns of Bias in Hollywood Movies, Algora Publishing, 2012. An entertainment lawyer studies why consistent complaints of bias in Hollywood have had little impact on racial and ethnic stereotyping.


Shahen, Jack, Real Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People, Southern Illinois University, 2014. A Middle East scholar documents a century of offensive stereotypes about Arabs and Muslims in a review of 500 films, showing how the image of the “dirty Arab” has re-emerged over the last 30 years.

Articles


- Use the tools at the top right of the screen to download, print, or email the entire report or just a section.

- Use the cite now! tool to get a full reference for the report that you can copy and paste into your paper or project. Please check any citations created by databases against another citation guide for accuracy.
Searching Biography in Context (GALE)

- From the library homepage ([https://library.ivytech.edu/valpolibrary](https://library.ivytech.edu/valpolibrary)), click on the A-Z list of Databases.

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- On the next page, click on “B” or scroll down the page and click on **Biography in Context (Gale)**.
• The Biography in Context database is a collection of biographical entries covering international figures from all time periods and areas of study. The entries include not just biographical sketches, but videos, audio selections, images, primary sources, and magazine and journal articles from hundreds of major periodicals and newspapers.

• You can browse the entries by category or view all the people by clicking the links in the middle of the database homepage underneath the featured people.

• To search for a specific person, enter the name in the search box at the top of the page. Click the magnifying glass icon to search.

• On the results page click on read more to view the whole entry.
In 1960 a dean at Harvard Law School recommended one of his star pupils, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, to serve as a clerk to Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter. Though Frankfurter, like others familiar with Ginsburg, acknowledged her impeccable academic credentials, he confessed that he was not ready to hire a woman. This was neither the first nor the last instance where Ginsburg was defined by her gender rather than her formidable intellect. But the rejections galvanized Ginsburg a fighting spirit to right the wrongs that women suffered so routinely in American society. Thus, much as lawyer and former Justice Thurgood Marshall had converted the prejudice he faced as a black into the engine fueling his crusade to topple institutional...

- Use the tools on the right side of the screen to email, print, or download the entry.

- Use the citation tool to create a reference you can copy and paste into the references or work cited page of your paper. Select the tool from the list on the right side of the page, then choose the citation style from the drop down menu. Please check any citation you get from a database against another citation guide for accuracy.
This database has more than biographical sketches, on the right side of topic page you will see links to different kinds of content: audio, magazines, images, etc. that you can use in your paper or report. You can also search the content using a keyword. For this example I used education to find more information on where Justice Ginsburg went to school.

Searching Britannica Academic

- From the library homepage (https://library.ivytech.edu/valpolibrary), click on the A-Z list of Databases.
On the next page, click on “B” or scroll down the page and click on Britannica Academic.

The Britannica Academic database is a combination of the Encyclopædia Britannica and Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary and Thesaurus, magazines and periodicals, and many other research tools that provides the variety of reliable sources all in one place.

Enter your keywords or search terms in the box at the top of the page. Remember: keywords are the main points of your topic. They can be a single word or a short phrase. Please ask for help if you are unsure of what keywords are good for your topic. For this example I used the term macroeconomics. You can choose to search for articles on the topic or to get a definition from a dictionary. Click the magnifying glass icon to search.
• On the results page you will see the main entry or article for your topic. Click on the tabs at the top of the entry to see related content and images & videos.

• Use the tools in the upper right to print or email the article.

• Use the check mark icon to create a citation for the article that you can copy and paste into your references or works cited pages. Make sure you check the citation against another citation guide for accuracy.

• Other tools in the Britannica Academic database are a world atlas and compare countries tool.
The **compare countries** tool lets you see the differences/similarities of two nation’s side-by-side. Choose the countries from the drop down menus to compare.

### Help with Citations

- You can find guides and citation examples on the [Valparaiso Campus Library homepage](#) under **Citing Sources** on the left side of the screen.

- Here you will find sample papers in APA and MLA format and tools that help you create citations. **If you need help formatting or have questions about citations, please contact the library!**
Documentation and Sample Papers

- **APA** Format (6th Edition)
  - APA Sample Paper
- **MLA** Format (7th Edition)
  - MLA Sample Paper
- **American Psychological Association** -- Use this AP available.
- **Modern Language Association** -- MLA Website
- **OWL** -- Online Writing Lab from Purdue

Citation Help

- **NoodleTools** - Creates works cited or reference pag a free account.
- **NoodleTools’ Help Guide**

Library Contact

Other reference materials are available in the campus library. Please contact the library if you have any questions or if you need help with any of the resources in this guide.

219-464-8514 ext. 3020 and ext. 3021

Valparaiso-Library@ivytech.edu