Video transcript: how do I find reference materials?

If you are looking for facts, definitions, or a quick overview of a topic or an area of study, the UNB Libraries’ reference collections can help. We have great collections of

- Dictionaries
- Encyclopedias
- Guides
- Handbooks
- Standards
- And more...

Available online and in print, these materials are there to help you find the information you need and get your research off to a great start.

There are a number of ways to find reference materials at the library, but the main two are the subject guides and the “e-encyclopedias, etc.” tab. In this video we will take a look at a subject guide example.

Probably the best place to begin looking for reference materials is the UNB libraries’ subject guides. Subject guides pull together recommended library resources for most subjects taught at UNB and STU. 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. You can also find the subject guides right on the library’s home page.

To begin, start on the library home page, www.lib.unb.ca, scroll down to the “Research by Subject” section, and choose a subject from the list of subject guides. (Go to the “All Detailed Subject Guides” link, if you don’t see your subject in the list.) In this demonstration, I will choose Psychology.

I can select the recommended electronic materials from the “Top Reference Materials” in the Psychology Guide or I can dig a bit deeper within one of the several detailed guides on the left-hand side. I will choose the guide to Psychology.

The first tab in the guide is labeled “reference sources,” but you may see it labeled in other guides as “reference materials” or “encyclopedias.” Under this tab, you will find recommended resources that are available in print and online.

The online sources will be linked, as we see in the example of the DSM-5 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, and we can simply click the link to connect. Books will have a location and call number attached, such as this one—the Dictionary of Psychology HIL-REF BF31 .C64 2001, which enables you to head right to the stacks and have a look. You can find out more about how to search for a book in the library in another video called “How do I find a book?”

There are many ways to discover UNB Libraries’ reference collections. If you want to learn more, talk to us via the chat widget on the library’s webpage, visit your library’s Research Help Desk or Service Desk, or go to our research help page located under the “Services” tab (www.lib.unb.ca/research/). This page is full of research tips and includes links to useful videos.