

Library @

University of Kurdistan Hewlêr



Reference Sources

What is a reference source?

A reference source can be defined as the material you will look at in your first stage of researching your topic of interest. It can come in a range of formats; each reference source answering a different type of question. Listed below are common types of reference sources and examples of information which can be found in each:

- **Almanac** - Compilations of facts and statistics, usually one volume
- **Atlas** - Maps and geographical information
- **Biographical sources** - Information about individuals
- **Dictionary** - Definitions of terms, either general or in relation to a specific subject or discipline
- **Encyclopaedia** - Comprehensive summaries of factual information, providing more detail than a dictionary
- **Handbook** - Concise explanatory information on a topic

Why use them?

Each reference type should offer you more than one of the several points listed below:

- Background information about a topic
- Brief, factual overviews of topics
- Information about important dates, events, and people associated with a topic
- Terminology and definitions of terms related to a topic
- Articles written by authors with expertise in the subject matter
- Bibliographies of sources for further reading
- A starting point from which to develop your research

Print references

Go to the catalogue home webpage by typing <http://www.ukh.edu.krd/library.php> in the address bar and click on search:

Trawl down to the library catalogue option on the right side of the page. Click on the link marked to open the catalogue. (NOTE: Remember this system is not live and shows all lending stock as being available for borrowing)

Subject areas/examples available include:

- Bibliographies - 010
- Encyclopaedias and books of facts - 030

We would be delighted to see you in the library at any time. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask and the staff will be more than happy to assist you

- Almanacs and book of facts - 031.02
- Quotations - 080
- Encyclopaedia on Judaism - 296.14003
- 21st century sociology: a reference handbook - 301
- Volcanic landforms and surface features: a photographic atlas and glossary - 551.21
- Cambridge handbook of engineering education research - 620.0017
- Merriam-Webster's encyclopaedia of literature – 803
- The statesman's yearbook - 909.38105
- Geography/Travel – 910
- The Times concise atlas of the world - 912
- Who's who: an annual biographical dictionary - 920.041

Online Reference Resources

Go to the catalogue home webpage by typing <http://www.ukh.edu.krd/library.php> in the address bar and searching for this address. Trawl down to the Resources section in the index on the left side of the page and open it by clicking on the link.

Other useful sites and webpages, related to research generally, listed on the Library webpage include:

- Citation and Referencing section on the Library webpages at <http://www.ukh.edu.krd/citationandreferencing.php>
- Middle East and Arabic Countries Copyright Law Handbook - <https://books.google.iq/books?id=TTsV0kbtbfUC&pg=PA7&lpg=PA7&dq=copyright+information+for+middle+east&source=bl&ots=4jOJyAm2hL&sig=EqBXE1s2usEbjukmup8hHweVLJ4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiwzK6btfjPAhXCyRQKHWT44AQ6AEITDAJ#v=onepage&q=copyright%20information%20for%20middle%20east&f=false>
- Evaluating Web Sites: Criteria and Tools - a selection on research skill web-pages <http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/webeval.html>

Some tips to remember when conducting searches:

- To achieve effectiveness and efficiency in your searches it is necessary to plan and organise your search terms in advance. This will save you time by not repeating your searches and may help in identifying possible sources of information, before you start unnecessary reading
- When searching SPELLING COUNTS – if you are getting no results, but you think you should be, check your spelling
- Some search engines will allow you to use quotation marks to help you narrow down results
- Search engines generally ignore capitalisation (Taiwan = taiwan)

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