

Cerritos College Library

In the Wilford Michael Library & Learning Resource Center

DIVERSITY

Getting Background Information on Your Topic

Within the guidelines of the assignment given to you by your instructor, select a topic that is of interest to YOU. Once you have selected a topic for your paper, use the general reference books available in the library to get background information on your topic. Reference books such as the encyclopedias, dictionaries, and handbooks listed below are a good starting point for your research because they help you become better acquainted with your topic. The *GaleNet Databases*, *RAND California*, and *Facts.com* are online resources that also provide useful background and statistical information.

Reference Books

Encyclopedia of Multiculturalism

REF E184 .A1 E58 1994

Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America

REF E184 .A1 G14 2000

Racism

REFDESK HT 1521 .R3414 2004

Ethnic Groups Worldwide: A Ready Reference Handbook

REF GN325 .L46 1998

Ethnic Relations: A Cross-Cultural Encyclopedia

REF GN496 .L48 1994

Encyclopedia of Race & Racism

REF E184 .A1 E584 2008

Racial and Ethnic Diversity: Asians, Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Whites

REF E184 .A1 R78 1998

Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups

Ref E184 .A1 H35

Getting More Information on Your Topic

Once you have done your background research you will be ready to conduct more comprehensive research using books, journals, magazines, newspapers, and the Internet.

Books

Use the [Library Catalog](#) located on the Cerritos College [Library Home Page](#) to find books on your topic that are available in the Cerritos College Library.

You can search for books by author, title, subject, or keyword. Listed below are some *Library of Congress Subject Headings* used in the online catalog for books relating to *Diversity*. Use these terms to *Search by Subject*. Remember, this list is by no means conclusive.

Selected Subject Headings:

Diversity
Ethnicity
Minorities
Segregation
Cultural pluralism

Multiculturalism
Pluralism (Social sciences)
Racism
Race discrimination
Religious pluralism

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Newspaper and Magazine Articles

Journals and magazines usually provide the most current information on a topic. Journal articles are more scholarly or professional while magazine articles tend to be shorter and more general. Newspaper articles, while not usually scholarly or professional, can give you the most current news and some additional facts on your topic.

To find articles on your topic, use one of the online databases listed below. These databases usually provide full-text articles on almost every topic. They are available via the [Library Home Page](#). Conduct your search in these databases by using subject headings and keywords similar to those you used to locate books.

EBSCOhost
Gale Databases
Ethnic News Watch
Proquest Newspapers

NewsBank
Gender Watch
Facts on File
Country Watch

For remote access to the library databases, login to the [Library](#) using your Cerritos College ID number.

For historical research, the Library also has print indexes that must be used to find older articles, generally anything published before 1985.

Internet Sites

The Internet can be a valuable source for supplementing the information you have gathered from books and periodicals. It is important that you evaluate the information you get from the Internet to determine if it is reliable and useful to your research. A few Internet sites that may be useful are listed here.

ADL- Anti-Defamation League

<http://www.adl.org/>

Dedicated to stopping the defamation of Jewish people and to the promotion of equal treatment of all people.

Diversity Bibliography

http://www.poynter.org/research/biblio/bib_rg.htm

An annotated bibliography of online and print resources about diversity. Compiled for journalists by the Poynter Institute.

Diversity Timeline

<http://www.pbs.org/itvs/testofcourage/diversity4.html>

This timeline presents "an overview of segregation and integration, [and] cultural and gender diversity in American history, from the 1600s through [1996]." Part of the PBS series on firefighting, *Test of Courage*.

Pluralism Project: Religious Diversity in America

<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~pluralism/>

This Harvard University project was created to study and document religious diversity in the United States, focusing especially on the influence of immigrants and their religious traditions. Seeking to document how diverse faiths interact, change, and affect American society, this site also provides links to an online directory of religious centers, a slideshow of places of worship nationwide, news articles, event calendars, and links to sites that focus on religious traditions as well as religious groups that function in public arenas such as government or education.

Internet Public Library

<http://www.ipl.org>