

Cerritos College Library

In the Wilford Michael Library & Learning Resource Center

MASS MEDIA TOPICS & ISSUES

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, handbooks, and the current issue titles listed below are a good starting point for your research because they help you become better acquainted with your topic.

Reference Books

Encyclopedia of Children, Adolescents, and the Media

REF HQ784 .M3 E53 2007

User-Generated Content

REFDESK ZA4482 .U84 2007

Mass Media and the Constitution : An Encyclopedia of Supreme Court Decisions

REFERENC KF2750.A59 H58 1989

Internet and the Law: Technology, Society, and Compromises

[NetLibrary eBook](#)

Encyclopedia of Information Ethics and Security

[NetLibrary eBook](#)

Encyclopedia of International Media and Communications

REF P87.5 .E535 2003

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](#) available on the Cerritos College [Library Home Page](#) to find books available in the Cerritos College Library. Books can provide a broad overview of a topic or in-depth information.

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

Selected Subject Headings:

Digital divide
Social networking
Internet
Internet addiction
Cyberterrorism
War in mass media

Reality television programs
Information technology social aspects
Internet social aspects
Internet censorship
Internet—moral & ethical aspects
Sex role in mass media

Internet in education
Computer crimes
Internet political aspects
Cyberbullying
Terrorism in mass media
Mass media and culture

You can also do a *Keyword* search to find books on your topic. If you find one book that is useful to your research, click on the *Subject* links to see others on the same subject.

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Magazine, Journal, and Newspaper Articles

Journal 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.

Databases for Mass Media Topics & Issues

CQ Electronic Library
EBSCOhost
Facts on File

Gale Databases
NetLibrary eBooks
NewsBank

Project Muse
Ethnic News Watch

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

See the [Database Page](#) or handout for a complete description of the Cerritos College Library online resources.

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.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

<http://www.fbi.gov/cyberinvest/cyberhome.htm>

GAO-07-705 **Cybercrime**: Public and Private Entities Face Challenges

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07705.pdf>

A Nation Online: Entering the Broadband Age

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/reports/anol/index.html>

National Criminal Justice Reference Service

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/index.html>

The 'CSI Effect': Does It Exist?

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/journals/259/csi-effect.htm>