

Academic Resources for Da Vinci High School

Reference Books

Have I worded my essay statement or thesis so it says what I mean?

Webster's third new international dictionary of the English language, unabridged - Ref PE 1625 .W36 2002.

On the stand outside the main room of the 3rd floor this big, unabridged dictionary is just what you need to determine if ersatz means phony.

Synonym Finder - Ref PE 1591 .R64 1986

Here's where you find out that "thin as six o'clock" is a more interesting way to describe your "frail" sister-in-law.

Acronyms, Initialisms & Abbreviations Dictionary - Ref PE 1693 .G3 1997

Military acronyms, airport symbols, stock exchange initials, and more – are here.

Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang - Ref PE 2846 .H57 1994

No where else will you learn that "mojo" (meaning, magic or magical power) made its public appearance in American English in 1926 with Leadbitter and Slaven singing "My Daddy's Got the Mojo, But I Got the Say-So."

Where do I find general information about my topic?

Encyclopedia Americana - Ref AE 5 .E333 2000

General and introductory articles often with illustrations and maps for when it is not sufficient to know simply that Darius was the king of Persia – Persia had three kings named Darius.

New Encyclopedia Britannica - Ref AE 5 .E363 2002

The encyclopedia of encyclopedias. In less than a column of type you'll find out that Sir Robert Baden-Powell, famous for starting the Boy Scouts (and three years later along with his sister founded the Girl Scouts), actually got the scouting movement underway with his military text book, Aids to Scouting (1899).

Dictionary of National Biography - Ref DA 28 .D45

Don't be fooled by the name. This is actually an encyclopedia of biographies. Limited to British notables this work is famous for its literary standards, reliable information, and occasionally droll tone, as in the description of how John Milton's notorious first marriage commenced, "About Whitsuntide (21 May

1643) Milton took a journey into the country, assigning no reason, and came back with a wife.”

St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture - Ref E 169.1 .S764 2000

Snapshot articles on gas stations and gated communities, Nancy Friday and Harry Houdini, here in accessible essays, thoroughly illustrated, are the snap, crackle, pop, and cultural implications of the history and heroes who race past us.

Academic Databases

How can I find articles focused more precisely on my topic? The Montante Family Library subscribes to many databases that contain scholarly and popular articles. Go to:

<http://library.dyc.edu/databases.html>

DATABASE	SUBJECT COVERAGE
Academic Search Premier and Elite	Broad Scholarly Content: Journals, Largely Full-Text
American National Biography	Articles & Bibliographies & Photos, Full-Text
CountryWatch	Country Reviews, News, Articles, Maps, Statistics
Custom Newspapers*	Newspaper Articles, Full-Text
Ebsco Animals	Images & Articles about Animals and their Habitat
Encyclopedia Britannica Online	Broad Subject Coverage: Full-Text
Funk & Wagnall's Encyclopedia	Broad Subject Content: Largely Full-Text
Literature Resource Center	Biographies, Criticism, Articles, Bibliographies, Websites, Essays, Interviews: Largely Full-Text
MAS Ultra - School Edition	Broad Subject Coverage for High School Students: Articles, Images, Maps, Flags, Mostly Full-Text
MasterFILE Select	Broad Subject Content: Largely Full-Text
National Newspaper Index*	New York Times, Wall St. Journal, Wash. Post, LA Times, Citations Only, 1977-Present
New York State Newspapers*	Full-Text Articles from 10 major NY newspapers, including Buffalo News & New York Times
Newspaper Source	Broad News Content: Largely Full-Text

*The databases marked with an asterisk are provided by NOVEL, a statewide virtual library free to the public from the New York State Library, funded through a Library services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Web Tutorials and Web Search Engines

SELECTED WEB SITES

Where can I learn what I need to know to start searching the Internet?

Internet 101 – <http://www.stimulus.com/education/internet101.html>

This site is dedicated to teaching students of all ages about using the Internet. Included are online lessons on HTML and basic CGI plus introductory, basic lessons for the novice student.

Bare Bones 101 - <http://www.sc.edu/beaufort/library/pages/bones/bones.shtml>

Ellen Chamberlain's basic tutorial on searching the Web (Internet) will walk you through those first steps (like how to read a URL, Universal Resource Locator) so you will soon be dancing (decoding error messages). This site also points out the slippery spots on the dance floor that you will want to sashay around, like the instability of web pages - they can change more frequently than your dancing partners.

Where can I one-stop-shop for resources on the Internet?

Google – <http://www.google.com/>

This is the newest leader in search engines and the main muscle behind search engines like Yahoo.com. Its simplified interface gets right down to the point.

Infomine - <http://infomine.ucr.edu/>

This site coughs and chugs like an old pick-up, but it delivers. A searchable index with links to 106,350 “academically valuable resources.” Use Infomine to build a bibliography of intellectually credible Web information sources. A search for “Homer” leads you to the Homer Homepage, which itself has over 50 links to academic Web sites dealing with the ancient Greek bard.

How can I search the Search Engines and Web Catalogs?

Internet Public Library – Web Searching -- <http://www.ipl.org/div/websearching/>

Looking for information on the Web? The site lists some of IPL's favorite general Internet search engines and catalogs. No search engine or catalog is comprehensive, so IPL recommends that searchers use a variety of tools.

Metacrawler - <http://www.metacrawler.com>

By providing the combined results of a variety of search engines this meta-searching site promises better results and more coverage of the Web. Searching “chess” via Metacrawler you will pull-up 94 hits, which are divided into 9 separate categories. An identical Google search pulls-up 5,190,000 hits with no handy category divisions.