

CORE REFERENCE RESOURCES

These are the resources that every library serving adult patrons should have. They serve as the foundation of a library's reference collection. This list has only a few specific titles. The rest are subject areas for which the library should have at least one resource to fulfill the requirement, unless their library is a specialized collection. Each bulleted item on the list indicates the need for at least one reference resource.

Libraries may use the **Recommended Reference Resources** for suggestions of resources in a subject area, or may choose any other resource that fulfills the subject requirement. The numbering of the categories on this list matches that of the **Recommended Reference Resources** to facilitate the selection of items to fill a need.

It is expected that the library will obtain the most recent source where timeliness or currency is important. The physical format of these resources is left to the choice of the individual library.

I. GENERAL SOURCES

Access to the Internet at the Reference Desk

- Almanac (current year)
- Encyclopedia (no more than 5 years old)
- Access to appropriate periodical databases, including free ISL databases where appropriate
- *MLS Union List of Serials*
- Telephone books for your community(ies) and Chicago white and yellow pages

II. CONSUMER INFORMATION

- Consumer Reports magazine
- Guide to vehicle prices

III. READER'S ADVISORY

- Source for reader's advisory

IV. PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY, AND RELIGION

- Source on world mythology
- Dictionary or encyclopedia of psychology
- Dictionary or encyclopedia of religion
- Dictionary or encyclopedia of philosophy

V. STATISTICS

- Statistical Abstract of the United States
- Census information for your community(ies)

VI. BUSINESS

- National business directory information
- Illinois business directory information
- Local business directory information

VII. LABOR

- No requirement

VIII. TAX INFORMATION

- Access to online or reproducible Federal and Illinois tax forms

IX. LAW AND GOVERNMENT

- Illinois Compiled Statutes
- List of government officials serving your community(ies)

X. OCCUPATIONS

- Source of occupational information

XI. EDUCATION

- Guide to colleges
- Local school report cards
- Guide to scholarships

XII. LANGUAGE

- Unabridged English dictionary

XIII. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Science encyclopedia
- Guide to animal species

XIV. MEDICINE

- Prescription drug source (no more than 2 years old)
- Guide to diagnosis & treatment of diseases
- Medical dictionary

XV. SOCIAL CUSTOMS

- Chase's Calendar of Events
- Book of etiquette

XVI. ART

- Guide to art and artists

XVII. ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

- Antiques and collectibles price guide

XVIII. PERFORMING ARTS

- Movie guide

XIX. MUSIC

- Dictionary or encyclopedia of music

XX. GAMES AND SPORTS

- Source for rules for games and sports

XXI. LITERATURE

- Index to poetry
- Source of literary criticism
- Style manual
- Dictionary of quotations

XXII. HISTORY AND ETHNIC STUDIES

- Chronology of world history
- Dictionary or encyclopedia of American history
- Source for Illinois history

XXIII. GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL

- Atlas of the world (no more than 5 years old)
- Road atlas of the United States (no more than 2 years old)
- Map of the Chicagoland area (no more than 5 years old)

XXIV. BIOGRAPHY, NAMES, AND GENEALOGY

- Dictionary or encyclopedia of biography
- Guide to personal names