

MLS High School Recommended Reference Sources

This list was developed by a group of high school library media specialists, a subcommittee of the MLS School Librarian's Advisory Group (http://www.mls.lib.il.us/members/school_advisory.asp). It is intended to serve as a working guide to developing a core reference collection for students in grades 9-12.

The majority of the list recommends subject areas in which high schools should strive to collect at least one reference source. Notations are given, when appropriate, about the age of the title (e.g. "No more than five years old."). Notations are also given, in some cases, when print or electronic resources are recommended; if there is no notation, either is appropriate. In all cases, purchasing the most recent edition available is recommended. Recommendations may be met by in-house access to reference sources in any physical format.

While few specific titles are recommended in this document, the reasoning is the committee recognizes that individual media centers will have specific needs and circumstances dictated by curriculum, budget, and user population. The list is a guide and is by no means intended to be a substitute for the professional collection development expertise of a library media specialist.

In addition to this resource, please consult the MLS HS Reference wiki for discussion and assistance in title selection, available at <http://mlshsresources.wetpaint.com>.

SELECTION AIDS

PERIODICALS

Choose at least two:

- *Booklist*.
ALA, 22/year.
- *Library Journal*.
Reed Business, 20/year.
- *Library Media Connection*.
Linworth, 7/year.
- *School Library Journal*.
Reed Business, 12/year.
- *VOYA: Voice of Youth Advocates*
Scarecrow Press. 24/year.

PUBLICATIONS

Choose at least one:

- *Recommended Reference Books for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries and Media Centers*.
by Shannon Graff Hysell. Annual. Libraries Unlimited

- *Senior High Core Collection: A Selection Guide.*
H.W. Wilson Co. (online)

000s

BIBLIOGRAPHIC VERIFICATION

A bibliographic verification source should be available:

- OCLC World Cat
- Local cataloging system
- *MLS Union List of Serials*, (online) Metropolitan Library System.
http://www.mls.lib.il.us/resource_sharing/uls/search.asp

READERS' ADVISORY

At least two sources, online or print.

A GENERAL PERIODICAL INDEX

Either a current print periodical index or an electronic database of journal articles.

MULTI-VOLUME ENCYCLOPEDIAS (No more than five years old.)

At least one print set and one online subscription, appropriate to student population needs and reading levels.

COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET (No more than three years old)

A source of current information about computers and the internet.

100s

PHILOSOPHY

A dictionary or encyclopedia of philosophy. This should include major schools of thought and persons.

PSYCHOLOGY

A dictionary or encyclopedia of psychology. This should include major schools of thought and persons.

A dream encyclopedia.

PARANORMAL

A source of information on paranormal phenomenon, such as the occult, astrology, vampires, and UFOs.

200s

RELIGION

A dictionary or encyclopedia of major world religions.

Copies of major religious texts as appropriate to your community.

MYTHOLOGY

A guide to world mythology.

300s

SOCIOLOGY

A dictionary or encyclopedia of sociology. This should include major schools of thought and persons.

ALMANACS AND STATISTICS

A U.S. Almanac (current year)

A World Almanac (current year)

Statistical Abstract of the United States

CAREERS AND EDUCATION (No more than three years old)

A guide to careers.

A resume and interview guide.

A guide to post-secondary education as appropriate to your school.

A guide to financial aid for students.

SOCIAL GROUPS, CULTURES, AND INSTITUTIONS

An encyclopedia of women's history.

An encyclopedia of world cultures.

Encyclopedias of various ethnic groups appropriate to your community or curriculum.

An encyclopedia of popular culture.

ECONOMICS

A dictionary or encyclopedia of economics.

ENVIRONMENT

A dictionary or encyclopedia of the environment and environmental issues.

LAW AND GOVERNMENT

An encyclopedia of U.S. government.

A directory of U.S. government offices (Current edition)

*Handbook of Illinois Government, biennial (Current edition, available online:
<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/handbook/handbooktoc.html>)*

*Illinois Blue Book, biennial (Current edition, available online:
http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/illinois_bluebook/2005_2006/home.html)*

A guide to Parliamentary Procedure

The School Code of Illinois (Current edition)

Local school board policy (Current edition)

Local Student/Parent/Teacher Handbook (Current edition)

A guide to the U.S. Constitution

A guide to U.S. law

CRIMINOLOGY

An encyclopedia of crime and justice.

COMMERCE

*Access to business and residential telephone directories.
A consumer advice guide.*

CUSTOMS, ETIQUETTE AND FOLKLORE

*A dictionary or encyclopedia of fashion and costume.
A guide to international holidays.
A dictionary or encyclopedia of world folklore.
A guide to world customs.
An etiquette guide.*

400s

*An unabridged dictionary.
Various dictionaries according to student population needs and reading levels.
A guide to synonyms and antonyms.
World language dictionaries appropriate to student population needs and reading levels.
A guide to idioms.
A dictionary of acronyms.
A sign language dictionary.
A thesaurus.
A guide to English language usage.
A visual dictionary.
A rhyming dictionary.*

500s

*A general science encyclopedia. (No more than 5 years old)
A source of current information about endangered species.
A dictionary or encyclopedia, including major schools of thought and persons, on each of the following topics:*

- *Mathematics*
- *Astronomy*
- *Chemistry*
- *Physics*
- *Biology and Life Sciences*
- *Earth Science*
- *Paleontology*

*Field guides to local wildlife, plants, and birds.
A general encyclopedia of weather.*

600s

TECHNOLOGY

*A general encyclopedia of technology, including space, transportation, and engineering. (No more than 5 years old)
An encyclopedia of inventions and inventors.*

MEDICAL

A medical guide or encyclopedia. (No more than five years old)
An encyclopedia of diseases and conditions.
An illustrated encyclopedia of the human body.
A guide to alternative medicine.

PETS

A guide to pets and pet care.

FOOD AND COOKING

An encyclopedia of food.
A resource/cookbook for world recipes.

BUSINESS

An encyclopedia of business and finance.
A guide to common office practices and communications.
A dictionary of trade names.

700s**ART**

A dictionary or encyclopedia of world art, including major schools of thought and persons from western and non-western art.
A guide to the history and styles of architecture.
A guide to Chicago area architecture.

MUSIC

An encyclopedia or dictionary of music, including major schools of thought and persons from western and non-western music.
Guides to specific music areas and processes (such as chorus, band, and orchestra) as needed to fit school curriculum and interests.

THEATER

A guide to world drama, including major schools of thought and persons.
A guide to motion pictures and the cinema.

GAMES AND SPORTS

A guide to the rules for games.
An encyclopedic guide covering history and rules of sports.
A world records book.

800s**LITERATURE**

Style manuals (e.g. MLA, APA, Chicago) to support the curriculum.
A comprehensive poetry index.
A comprehensive play index.
A comprehensive short story index. A handbook of fiction, including characters, plots, allusions and references.
A dictionary of quotations.

A guide to literary terms.
A guide to American literature.
A guide to English literature.
A guide to world literature.
A resource for literary criticism.

900s

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

A chronology of world history
A chronology of U.S. history
A world historical atlas
A U.S. history atlas
A multi-volume dictionary or encyclopedia of world history
Primary source historical documents (e.g. U.S. Constitution)

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL

A gazetteer
A world atlas (no more than five years old)
A detailed street map or atlas of the Chicago metropolitan area (current)
A U.S. road atlas, or highway maps of the fifty states (no more than two years old)
Travel guides appropriate to your school

BIOGRAPHY, GENEALOGY, AND NAMES

A dictionary or encyclopedia of biography
Specialized encyclopedias of biography to support the curriculum (e.g. authors, scientists, newsmakers, etc.)
A guide to given personal names
A guide to surnames

GENERAL HISTORY

A multi-volume dictionary or encyclopedia of U.S. history
A guide to ethnic groups in the U.S.
Specialized encyclopedias of history to support the curriculum (e.g. American, world, European, etc.)
A history of Illinois
A history of Chicago
A guide to contemporary information regarding Illinois and Chicago
Local histories, if available