

# **LIB3 - Information Competency**

## **Assignment 8 - Reference Sources**

### **Purpose**

1. To use established criteria to critically evaluate reference sources.
2. To become familiar with a variety of reference sources.
3. To locate and evaluate a discipline-specific reference source, applying evaluation method learned in class.

### **Instruction**

#### **Part I. Finding a word in reference sources**

Choose one word in the English language (any word, e.g. garden, serenity, water, etc) and look up that word in 12 different reference sources. You MUST use at least one of each of the following categories of reference sources (for example: 2 different dictionaries, 2 different encyclopedias, etc.):

- Dictionaries
- Encyclopedias
- Indexes
- Quotations Books
- Biographical Sources
- Atlases and Gazetteers
- Statistical abstracts

Photocopy the pages where the information is found, and send them by mail to me at:  
Kim Barclay  
Long Beach City College Library  
4901 East Carson St,  
Long Beach, CA 90808

#### **Part II & III**

For part II and part III of this assignment, you may browse the shelves in the Reference room of any library or you may search the Library catalog Voyager to find reference sources on a certain topic at LBCC Library (For example: using “Keyword search”, type: +euthanasia +reference.).

You may also search our E-books collection. To find reference e-books, go to <http://www.netlibrary.com>.

On the multiple fields search screen, type “reference” in the *keywords* field to browse the whole reference collection; in addition, you may type a selected topic in the *subject* field. You may also create your user account when you first log-in.

## **Part II. Selecting reference sources**

1. Choose five reference sources in the Library Reference Collection that cover five different topics.
2. List the citation for each reference source in MLA style.
3. Write a descriptive and evaluative annotation (50 words or more) for each reference source. The annotation should address the following points:
  - Type of reference source (scholarly vs. popular)
  - Currency
  - Comprehensiveness
  - Bias
  - Publisher and contributors' credibility

## **Part III. Writing review of a reference source**

Select one reference source in the Library. Apply the evaluation method learn in class about evaluating reference sources. Write a review essay between 200-300 words.