

## ***Library 1***

# ***Reference Resources***

## ***Assignment 4***

The purpose of this assignment is to give you hands-on practice using reference resources (both print and electronic). You will learn about the content and arrangement of some of the most-used reference tools in the library. As a result, you will acquire the skills necessary to identify and evaluate the similarities and differences between reference works.

## **Instructions**

Take time to become acquainted with each reference resource: read the "How-to-Use" chapter and refer to the list of abbreviations and symbols to help you interpret the information contained within. Read the instruction for each question carefully and answer all pertinent questions on a separate sheet. Many reference sources form a multi-volume set; always check the index volume first to find the correct volume in which to find the answer.

### **Part A: Reference Books**

1) Reference work: ***Statistical Abstract of the United States***. Ref HA 202 .S7

Check the index for a table of statistics on **Education - Computer Use in School**. Hint: The index refers you to the **table number**—not the page number. Find the table that provides information on Student Instruction in Elementary and Secondary Schools. *This resource is shelved against the back wall of the LAC Library next to the Reference Desk. Please ask the Librarian if you cannot locate these.*

- a) What is the table number for these statistics? What is the page number you found this table on?
- b) What is the U.S. total percentage of schools with a wireless network?
- c) What is the U.S. total percentage of schools with high speed internet access?

2) Reference work: ***CQ's State Fact Finder***. Ref HA 214 .C72

Using the table of contents, locate the most relevant table to answer the questions below. *This resource is shelved against the back wall of the LAC Library next to the Reference Desk. Please ask the Librarian if you cannot locate these.*

- a) What is the table number for these statistics? What is the page number you found this table on?
- b) Which state had the highest average in-state tuition at public universities?
- c) What ranking is the state of California for average in-state tuition at public universities?

3) Reference work: ***The Statesman's Yearbook 2007***. Ref JA 51 .S7 2007

Locate information for New Zealand to answer the questions below. *This resource is shelved against the back wall of the LAC Library next to the Reference Desk. Please ask the Librarian if you cannot locate these.*

- a) What was New Zealand's total number of personnel in the Army (excluding reserves) in 2003?
- b) Who is the current leader of New Zealand and what is their position title?
- b) What is the page number that you found this information on?

4) Reference work: ***Short Story Criticism***. Ref PN 3373 .S386 (several volumes) *This resource is located in the reference department next to the reference desk at the LAC library. Locate information on the short story "The Yellow Wallpaper" written by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.*

- a) In what volume of Short Story Criticism did you find your information? What page number(s)?
- b) List two other Principal Works written by Charlotte Perkins Gilman and the date of publication.

5) Reference work: ***The Oxford English Dictionary***. Ref PE 1625 .O899 *This resource is shelved against the back wall of the LAC Library next to the Reference Desk. Please ask the Librarian if you cannot locate these.*

Look up the word "**potlatch**".

- a) From which language is this word derived?
- b) What is the definition of **potlatch**?
- c) What year is the earliest recorded use of this word?
- d) What page number did you find this information on?

## **Part B: Electronic Reference Sources**

Use the following website to search electronic reference resources to answer the following questions: <http://www.bartleby.com/reference/> . Do not use the same reference resource for more than one question.

6) Using the most relevant electronic resource, find the author of the following quote:

*I was angry with my friend:*

*I told my wrath, my wrath did end.*

*I was angry with my foe:*

*I told it not, my wrath did grow.*

- a) What electronic resource did you use and why did you choose it? Be specific.
- b) Who wrote the above quote?

7) Using the most relevant electronic resource, locate geographic information on the country of **South Africa**.

- a) What countries border South Africa?
- b) What electronic resource did you use and why did you choose it? Be specific.

8) Using the most relevant electronic resource, answer the following.

- a) List three synonyms for the word **talk**.
- b) What electronic resource did you use and why did you choose it? Be specific.