



countries and cultures resources

Resources (library and online):

- >Globes and atlases
- >Encyclopedias and country guides
- >Books
- >Articles
- >Websites



❶ Globes and atlases

In Library: globes and atlases in reference area.

Online: Atlapedia Online www.atlapedia.com, CountryReports.org.

❷ Encyclopedias and country guides

(Encyclopedias and guides are reference resources that have info about: geography, peoples, history, politics, economy, cultural topics such as art, clothing, customs, entertainment, family life, food, housing)

>In Library: Lands and Peoples, Worldmark Encyclopedia, Culturegrams, and general encyclopedias—Encyclopedia Britannica, Collier's Encyclopedia, Encyclopedia Americana, World Book.

>Online: Atlapedia Online www.atlapedia.com, CountryReports.org, Library of Congress Country Studies <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>, Encyclopedia Britannica Online www.youseemore.com/arapahoec, The World Factbook www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook, Encyclopedia of the Orient <http://l-cias.com/e.o>, Arab Culture and Civilization www.nitle.org/arabworld.

❸ Books

>Use the ACC TLC LS online library catalog as well as other library catalogs and online book sites: **The Colorado Virtual Library** www.aclin.org and **netLibrary** www.netLibrary.com.

>In Library, browse for books on the shelves—LC call numbers: DS (Asia), DT (Africa), F (Mexico, Central and South America), DJK (Eastern Europe), DK (former Soviet Union), DR (Balkan Peninsula). Also: CC (archaeology sources), CB (civilization sources).

>Online: Click Browse or Search in **LS catalog** (www.youseemore.com/arapahoec) and type in a country or continent, or general subject like anthropology, archaeology, art, civilization, costume, culture, description and travel, decoration and ornament, ethnology, geography, history, interior decoration, manners and customs, social life and customs, textile fabrics, etc. Also check

❹ Periodicals (magazine, journal, and newspaper articles)

Article databases such as **ProQuest** and **EBSCOhost** on ACC library homepage www.youseemore.com/arapahoec or from www.arapahoe.edu (require passwords for off-campus use). Use same or similar subjects and keywords used for book searching in online catalog. To access periodicals for full-text articles not found in databases, use the **ACC Periodicals List** (also online at <http://old.arapahoelibraries.org/cgi-bin/aplcore>), **Prospector** <http://prospector.coalliance.org>, and Colorado Virtual Library www.aclin.org.

❺ The Web

Subject directories: Librarians Index to the Internet www.lii.org, About.com, Encycl. Brit. Online, Google www.directory.google.com, Yahoo! www.yahoo.com, Invisible-Web.net.

Search engines: Google www.google.com, Ixquick www.ixquick.com, Profusion www.profusion.com, Vivisimo www.vivisimo.com

Reference sites: Internet Public Library www.ipl.org and RefDesk.com.

Researching your chosen topic

Books: Consider all online access points

Library Catalogs: TLC LS on ACC Library homepage at www.youseemore.com/arapahoecclib, or from www.arapahoe.edu, ACLIN at www.aclin.org (public libraries and college libraries), Prospector (other, mostly college, libraries) at <http://prospector.coalliance.org>.

Electronic books: netLibrary (authorized registration required at ACC at www.netlibrary.com); various free access websites, including National Academy Press at www.nap.edu, the IPL Books Collection at www.ipl.org/div/books, Project Gutenberg at www.promo.net/pg

Periodical articles: Consider all possible resources

Start out using the ACC periodicals databases. After using periodicals databases and you can't find the full-text of your article from a citation or abstract, try:

- ACC Periodicals List available at the Reference Desk (contains listings for hard copy in Library, on microfilm/fiche in Library, as well as holdings by ProQuest and at www.ipl.org)
- APL/CORE (<http://old.arapahoelibraries.org/cgi-bin/aplcore>), Prospector (<http://prospector.coalliance.org>) and ACLIN Virtual Library (www.aclin.org) for periodical holdings at area college and public libraries
- Denver Public Library's and Auraria's large collection often have the periodicals you're looking for
- Interlibrary Loan (ILL) request (24-hour turnaround from APL/CORE libraries, longer from others)
- Ingenta (formerly UnCover)—available by fax in 24 hours for a fee. Its huge holdings is also very useful for citations for use in obtaining articles elsewhere

If you have plenty of time, do an ILL request, otherwise you can go to an area library once you have identi-

Tips for using keywords for online searching

—If no satisfactory results, substitute original keywords with similar terms, related terms, synonyms, and alternate and variant spellings

—Refine the topic if necessary by widening or narrowing it

If there is too much information, you might need to narrow your topic; if too little, narrow it. If you cannot find enough information, you might have to choose an alternate topic.

- Widen (broaden) by (a) using more general terms, (b) using fewer terms, (c) using synonyms or alternate terms or spellings (in place of or in addition to existing terms), (d) some search engines/databases allow truncation (* or ?) to expand root word
- Narrow (specify) if there is too much information by (a) using more specific terms, (b) using more terms
- Place phrases (two or more words that go together) within quotations (" ")
- Consider using the advanced feature of Boolean searching offered by some databases and search engines (Boolean operators AND, OR and NOT) to add more precision to your searches
- Be aware of using singular/plural forms of words (a) singular forms result in more hits in some search engines, (b) using both singular and plural increases hits and varies results in some search engines
- Be aware of capitalized words: some search engines/databases are case sensitive, others are not

Tips for using the Internet for research

>Exercise caution and judgment in using websites (or any other information source): evaluate credibility and quality using AACUSO as your criteria: Authority, Accuracy, Currency, Coverage, Usefulness, Scholarliness, Objectivity (see www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html)

>For scholarly sites, use academic subject directories such as the Librarians' Index to the Internet (www.lit.org). Listings in academic directories are quality sites pre-screened by librarians.

>Basic facts, definitions, statistics, etc. can be found in reference sites at www.ipl.org and www.refdesk.com

>With general search engines and commercial directories, safe searches are government and university sites. Restrict your searches in Google or Yahoo! by combining keywords in text box with site:.gov OR site:.edu

>To exclude annoying book sites on a topic in a Google or Yahoo! search, type -book in search box

>Combine topics with these keywords for more scholarly results: study, journal, statistics, history, analysis, etc.

>Combining topic with keyword "database" helps uncover hard data as well as "invisible Web" resources