

## Subject Encyclopedias

In addition to general encyclopedias, such as Britannica, Grolier's and World Book (found in Reference "A"), Steely Library's Reference print collection (3rd floor) has many subject encyclopedias. These specialized encyclopedias range from one to many volumes and are extremely helpful in exploring a topic, learning more about its subtopics, finding experts or famous names connected with a field, important dates or milestones and classic works or a bibliography for your topic.

There are at least two ways to find subject encyclopedias or specialized dictionaries at Steely:

1. Browse the collection, using the [Call number locations in Steely Library](#) to locate the Reference subject area closest to your topic. (Look just at the A - Z descriptions and ignore the floor locations - all Reference books are on the third floor.) For example, when looking for something about "social control theory" since this is in the field of criminal justice, go near the end of the H area of Reference to look for some of the crime or criminology or criminal justice encyclopedias. One example is *Encyclopedia of Criminology and Deviant Behavior* (REF HV6017 E53 2001 vol. 1 - 4). Use the index to locate all the articles/pages related to "social control theory." When you get to an area in Reference, you may see other specialized sources that could be helpful too.
  2.
    - o Do a "keyword" search in [NKUIRE](#)
    - o Type in the word "encyclopedia?" or the word "dictionar?"
    - o Type in a word or two related to your topic such as: psychology
    - o Note: words may be in any order in a "keyword" search. Also, if your first topic-related word doesn't work, try a broader word as you did when browsing the collection in Step 1.
    - o (Be sure the "and" button is selected before you hit Return or Search)

The results should show a number of subject encyclopedias or specialized handbooks for the field of psychology in the Reference and circulating collections (such as human emotions, human growth and development, child psychology, etc.) Get the call number/s and go directly to the one you want; follow the link to open any "e" book. Remember, when using any of these books or sets, you'll find the most on your topic if you use the index to locate all related pages.

Steely Library has subject encyclopedias from Anthropology to Zoology, such as:

- *Gale Encyclopedia of the Unusual and Unexplained* REF BF1025 S79 2003 v.1-3
- *Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas* REF E184 S75 O97 2005 v.1-4
- *Encyclopedia of Food and Culture* REF GT2850 E53 2003 v.1-3
- *International Encyclopedia of Dance* REF GV1585 I586 1998 V.1-6
- *Encyclopedia of Children & Childhood in History & Society* REF HQ767.84 E53 2004 v.1-3
- *Encyclopedia of Bioethics* REF QH332 E52 2004 v.1-5.

By browsing appropriate subject areas in Reference or doing keyword searches in [NKUIRE](#), you should be able to locate one or more of these specialized books. You'll be able to refine your topic, quickly learn some important information about it and be able to move ahead with your project.