Standards Committee Alabama Library Association
Suggestions for a basic reference collection

Each public library should have a collection of basic reference tools so that a majority of the reference requests received can be answered in-house. This list of titles, arranged by the Dewey Decimal Classification and then broad subjects has been compiled by the reference staff of the Alabama Public Library Service with the advice of reference librarians from the public libraries of Birmingham, Huntsville, and Mobile. The subject areas are displayed in bold print, e.g., “Dictionary of Foreign Phrases.” One or more examples of reference books are listed for each subject area.

Standard or classic titles that will remain in print or will be updated regularly have been selected. Every effort has been made to select reasonably priced items. This list is meant to be a guide; librarians may wish to select other titles. There are many excellent reference books that are not on this list.

The following titles are basic selection aids for reference resources. These titles were used to develop this list. APLS keeps current copies of these books for you to use when you are selecting titles for your own collection:

Reference Sources for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries. ALA. Annual.

A current reference collection is a necessity. Annuals, almanacs, and yearbooks should be replaced each year. Science and medical books should be replaced every three to five years. If you need assistance in determining the most current editions, contact the APLS Reference Department.

The Internet is an integral part of reference service now. No recommended list can be complete without a list of suggested sites. The addresses were current at the time this document was compiled.
SUGGESTIONS FOR A BASIC REFERENCE COLLECTION

Asterick (*) books should be in each library, and asterick (*) web sites should be book marked on library computers. Each library should have one or more books on a subject that is marked with an asterick (*).

000s-Generalities
Books:
*A general adult encyclopedia not more than 5 years old, such as Britannica.
*A children’s encyclopedia not more than 5 years old, such as World Book.
Chase’s Calendar, see the 500s


*A current computer dictionary:
An internet research guide:


Newspapers:
*The local newspaper
A newspaper from the largest major city in Alabama near the library

A handbook or dictionary of the paranormal:
**Internet Sites**

**General Reference sites**
Best Information on the Net  [http://www.sau.edu/bestinfo/](http://www.sau.edu/bestinfo/)
*Digital Librarian  [http://servtech.com/~mvail/home.html](http://servtech.com/~mvail/home.html)
*The Internet Public Library  [http://ipl.org/](http://ipl.org/)
Stumpers-L  [http://www.cuis.edu/~stumpers/](http://www.cuis.edu/~stumpers/)
The World-Wide Web Virtual Library: Subject Catalog  [http://www.vlib.org/AlphaVL.html](http://www.vlib.org/AlphaVL.html)

*Internet Sites for Books and Book Reviews:*
Amazon  [http://www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) see also “Featured in the Media” for books on television shows
Barnes and Noble  [http://www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)
Books and Book Reviews on the Web  [http://members.home.net/albeej/pages/Books.html](http://members.home.net/albeej/pages/Books.html)
BookSpot  [http://bookspot.com](http://bookspot.com)

**Out-of-Print Dealers:**
Alibris  [http://www.alibris.com](http://www.alibris.com)
Bibliofile  [http://www.bibliofile.org](http://www.bibliofile.org)
Bibliofind  [http://www.bibliofind.com](http://www.bibliofind.com)

**Library and Professional Sites:**
*American Library Association  [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)*
*Alabama Library Association  [http://alala.home.mindspring.com](http://alala.home.mindspring.com)*
Copyright:  Digital Millennium Copyright Act  [http://www.arl.org/info/frn/copy/dmca.html](http://www.arl.org/info/frn/copy/dmca.html)
Library web pages: lib-web-cats  [http://library.vanderbilt.edu/breeding/libwebcats.html](http://library.vanderbilt.edu/breeding/libwebcats.html)
LibraryLand: Index to Resources for Librarians  [http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/LibraryLand/index3.html](http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/LibraryLand/index3.html)
Libraryspot  [http://libraryspot.com](http://libraryspot.com)
Online serials directory: PubList.com: Home Page
The School of Library and Information Studies, The University of Alabama
http://slis.us.edu
WebCats: Library Catalogs on the World Wide Web
http://www.lights.com/webcats/

Computer/Internet Terms:
*Glossary of Internet Terms
http://www0.delphi.com/navnet/index.html
Webopedia Home Page http://pcwebopedia.com/

Grants
The Foundation Center  http://www.fdncenter.org/
Nonprofit Resources Catalogue  http://www.clark.net/pub/pwalker/home.html
NonProfit Gateway  http://www.nonprofit.gov/

Newspapers:
Alabama Live  http://www.al.com
Newspapers: 4100 Newspapers on the Net
The Ultimate Collection of News Links  http://www.ppp.net/links/news/

100s-Philosophy and Psychology

Books:
A philosophy dictionary or handbook:
A basic psychology dictionary or handbook:
(see also books on psychiatry in the 600’s)

Internet Sites
Philosophy Resources on the Internet  http://www.epistemelinks.com
Philosophy Research Base  http://www.erraticimpact.com/
Encyclopedia of Psychology  http://www.psychology.org/
200s-Religion

Books:
*Handbooks and guides to sects and denominations:

*A Bible and a concordance* (Make sure the version of the concordance and Bible are the same.)

Bible commentaries as needed:
Interpreter’s One-Volume Commentary on the Bible: Introduction and Commentary for Each Book of the Bible including the Apocrypha…Abingdon Press.

A Bible dictionary and/or Handbook:


Other guides as needed:
The New Ages Encyclopedia: a Guide to the Beliefs, Concepts, Terms,

**Internet Sites**

Bible Gateway  [http://bible.gospelcom.net/bible](http://bible.gospelcom.net/bible)
Buddhist Resources  [http://www.aril.org/Buddhist.html](http://www.aril.org/Buddhist.html)
Finding God in Cyberspace  [http://users.ox.ac.uk/~mikef/durham/fgic/contents.htm](http://users.ox.ac.uk/~mikef/durham/fgic/contents.htm)
*InterFaithNet  [http://www.exotrope.com/cgi-bin/search/ifn/form.cgi](http://www.exotrope.com/cgi-bin/search/ifn/form.cgi)

**300s-Social Sciences**

**Books:**

**Statistics:**

*(Note: The Alabama Department of Economics and Community Affairs (ADECA) published the *Alabama County Data Book* and the *Alabama Municipal Data Book* in years past but may not publish these titles again. The information in these titles was taken from the census and that material is available elsewhere.)*

**Business/Economics:**
*The Alabama Industrial Directory.* Alabama Development Office. (ADO usually gives copies of this to APLS for distribution to public libraries)


Government/Politics:

*Alabama Blue Book (Capitol Press) or Alabama Source Book (Litho-Media)
Alabama’s State and Local Government. David L. Martin. The University of Alabama Press.

Law:
Code of Alabama, 1975. Michie Co. (Kept up to date with pocket parts.)
Contact your local legislator to see if he can provide your library with a copy.
Black’s Law Dictionary. Publisher’s editorial staff, contributing authors: Joseph R. Noland and M. J. Connolly. West.

Tax Guides:
*A current year income tax guide:
The Ernst &Young Tax Guide. Peter W. Bernstein, Editor. John Wiley.
Reproducible Federal Tax Forms for Use in Libraries. IRS. Annual.
Publication 1132

Social Security, Medicare and pensions: the sourcebook for older Americans: the Sourcebook for Older Americans. Joseph L. Matthews. Nolo. (Formerly The Sourcebook for Older Americans)

Ethnic Groups:
Hispanic-American Almanac. Gale.
(Native Americans see 900’s)
A guide to environmental issues:


**Education**

*College guides:*

*Peterson’s guide to four-year colleges.* Peterson’s Guides. Annual.

*Barron’s Profiles of American Colleges* Barron’s Educational Series.


*Peterson’s guide to two-year colleges.* Peterson’s Guides. Annual.

*Peterson’s Vocational and Technical Schools and Programs.* Peterson’s Guides. 2 vols. (Volume one covers schools east of the Mississippi)

*A scholarship book:*

*Aids for Higher Education.* Financial Brown and Benchmark.


**A dictionary of folklore:**

*Funk and Wagnall’s Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology, and Legend.* Funk and Wagnall.

*Bullfinch’s Mythology.* Thomas Bullfinch. Various editions.

**An etiquette book:**


**Internet Sites**

**Statistics:**


*U.S. Census Bureau*  [http://www.census.gov/](http://www.census.gov/) (go to select a state and click on Alabama)

**Ethnic Groups (See also the 900’s):**

*AFRO-AMERICAN ALMANAC*  [http://toptags.com/aama](http://toptags.com/aama)

Martin Luther King, Jr.  [http://www.stanford.edu/group/King/](http://www.stanford.edu/group/King/)
Law and Government:
Alabama:
*Alabama Information Network  http://alaweb.asc.edu/index-main.asp
*Alabama State Government Publications  
http://www.lib.auburn.edu/madd/statepubs/ (Excellent site)
ALIS (Code of Alabama)  http://www/legislature.state.al.us/
Legal Forms, Alabama http://uslegalforms.com/Alabama.htm
*Alabama Department of Revenue  http://www.ador.state.al.us
(for state tax forms)

United States:
ADA- Americans With Disabilities Home Page
http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm
*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance  http://www.gsa.gov/fdac/
*Code of Federal Regulations
http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/index.html
EEOC  http://www.eeoc.gov/
*Federal Register  http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html
Frequently Used Sites Related to U.S. Federal Government Information
http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/central/staff/fdtf.html
GovSpot-resources for Citizens and Government Employees
http://www.govspot.com/
Internal Revenue Service  http://irs.gov/  (For tax information)

State Tax Forms  http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/FORMS.html

Crime:
Criminal Justice Links  http://www.criminology.fsu.edu/cj.html
Crime in Alabama  http://agencies.state.al.us/acjis/pages/frcontent.htm

Disabilities:
National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities
http://nichcy.org/
Recordings for the Blind & Dyslexic  http://www.rfbd.org/
WebABLE!  http://webable.com/
Business:
A.M. Best Worldwide Insurance Directory  
http://www.ambest.com/resource/insdir.html
Companies Online  http://www.companiesonline.com/
CompanyLink: Company Lookup  
http://www.companylink.com/companylookup.cfm
NASDAQ  http://www.nasdaq.com/
Stock Ticker Symbol Search  
http://www.secapl.com/secapl/quoteserver/search.html
StockMaster  http://www.stockmaster.com/
Thomas Register  http://www.thomasregister.com

Education:
Education World  http://www.education-world.com/
SERI-Special Education Resources on the Internet  
http://www.hood.edu/seri/
Educational Testing Service Network  http://www.ets.org/
*FastWeb: Free Scholarship and College Searches  http://www.fastweb.com/
*FinAid! The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid Tools  
http://www.finaid.org/

Etiquette/Costumes/Holidays:
Ultimate Etiquette and Manners Resource Page  
http://www.mindspring.com/~thinds/jmh/etiquetteurls.htm
Costumes  http://www.costumes.org
The Worldwide Holiday and Festival Site  

Folklore:
Bullfinch’s Mythology  http://www.bulfinch.org/
Legends  http://www.legends.dm.net/
Urban Legends & Folklore-Home Page  http://urbanlegends.miningco.com/
Urban Legends Reference Pages  http://snopes.com/
(WARNING: THE URBAN LEGENDS SITES CONTAIN SOME ADULT MATERIAL)
**400s-Languages**

**Books:**

*An unabridged dictionary:*

*Webster’s Third New International Dictionary of the English Language.* Merriam-Webster.

A sign language dictionary:


A reverse dictionary:


A thesaurus:


A dictionary of foreign phrases:


A visual dictionary:


A usage guide:

Foreign dictionaries as needed:
Cassell’s German-English; English-German. Harold T. Betteridge, compiler. Macmillan.

Internet Sites
Dictionaries/usage:
Guide to Grammar and Writing http://webster.commnet.edu/HP/pages/darling/original.htm
Inkspot: Writing Resource http://www.inkspot.com/
*Merriam-Webster Online http://www.m-w.com/home.htm

Foreign Languages:
WWW Foreign Language Resources http://www.itp.berkeley.edu/~thorne/HumanResources.html
Language Dictionaries an Translators http://rivendel.com/~ric/resources/dictionary.html
*Travlang’s Translating Dictionaries http://dictionaries.travlang.com/

500s-Natural Science

Books
A general science dictionary:

**Science Fair Projects:**
*Janice VanCleave’s Science Experiment Source Book*
*Science Experiments on File, Facts on File*
*Chase’s Calendar of Annual Events.* Contemporary Books. Annual.

A dictionary of scientific biography:
*The Cambridge Dictionary of Scientists.* Ian Miller, Margaret Miller, David Miller, and John Miller. Cambridge University Press.

Handbooks or dictionaries on specific areas of the sciences:
*The Numbers You Need.* Nigel Hopkins and John W. Mayne. Gale.
John Farndon and Neil Ardley. Dorling Kindersley.
*Dinosaur Society Dinosaur Encyclopedia.* The Don Lessem and Donald F. Glut. Random.

**NOTE:** The Peterson Field Guide Series and the Audubon Field Guides are good and reasonably priced. You may need books on tree identification, insects, butterflies, reptiles, amphibians, venomous animals, shells, and mammals.

**Internet sites**
General Science sites:
SciCentral: Gateway to the Best Science and Engineering Online Resources
(http://scicentral.com)
SciSeek.com-Your Online Resource for Science and Nature
http://www.sciseek.com/

Science Fair Projects:
*Reference Desk  http://www.eurekalert.org/resources/definitions.html
*IPL Science Fair Project Resource Guide
http://www.ipl.org/youth/projectguide/

Scientific biography:

Biographies, The Scientists
http://www.blupete.com/Literature/Biographies/Science/Scients.htm
Women in Science  http://hyperion.advanced.org/20117/mainbio.html
The Faces of Science: African Americans in the Sciences
http://www.lib.lsu.edu/lib/chem/display/faces.html

Mathematics:
History of Mathematics  http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/index.html
The Math Forum Home Page  http://forum.swarthmore.edu/

Sites on Specific Scientific Topics:
TheWWW Virtual Library: Astronomy and Astrophysics
http://w.com/wwwvl/astronomy/
The Nine Planets  http://www.seds.org/billa/tnp/
The NASA Homepage  http://www.nasa.gov/
PhysLINK com-Physics, Science, Engineering Reference
http://www.physlink.com
Chemistry Teaching Resources
http://www.anachem.umu.se/eks/pointers.htm
Earth Sciences: Paleontology
http://www.wcsu.ctstateu.edu/library/es_paleontology.html
Biology Legacy Site o’Sites  http://www.teleport.com/~amobb/biology/
Plant Science Homepage  http://www.unl.edu/agnicpls/agnic.html
Internet Resource Guide Zoology
http://www.york.biosis.org/zrdocs/zoolinfo/zoolinfo.htm
600s-(Applied Science and Technology)
Books:
Patents and Inventions:

Medicine:
* A medical dictionary:
  * Stedman’s Medical Dictionary. Williams & Williams.

* An anatomy atlas or handbook:

* A family guide to health:

* A professional medical guide:
  * Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment. Appleton & Lange

* A guide to drugs:

* A first aid book:
  * American Medical Association Handbook of First Aid and Emergency Care. AMA.

Mental Health:
Technology:
**An electronics dictionary:**

*Automobile Repair:*
*Chilton’s Auto Repair Manual.* Chilton Book Co.
*Chilton’s Truck and Van Repair Manual.* Chilton Book Co.

A gardening handbook:

A guide to southern gardens:
*The Southern Living Garden Book.* Steve Bender. Oxmoor House

A houseplant handbook:
The Houseplant Encyclopedia. Maggie Stuckey. Berkely

Pets:
*Complete Book of Pet Care.* Peter Roach. Howell Books

A Consumer guide:
Consumer Reports Buying Guide issue (December issue of Consumer Reports) Editors of Consumer Reports. Consumers Union

A food dictionary:

A cook book with basic recipes:

Secretarial Handbook:

A Business Dictionary:
*Dictionary of Business and Management.* Jerry M. Rosenberg. Wiley
Internet Sites

Patents and Inventions:
* Patent and Trademark Office  http://www.uspto.gov/
How Stuff Works!  http://www.howstuffworks.com/

Medicine:
Lycos: Health>Alternative  http://dir.lycos.com/Health/Alternative/
* Merck  http://www.Merck.com
* QuackWatch Home Page  http://www.quackwatch.com/
* RxList-The Internet Drug Index  http://www.rxlist.com
Tufts University Nutrition Navigator  http://navigator.tufts.edu/

Psychiatry:
Clinical Psychology Resources  http://www.psychologie.uni-bonn.de/kap/li_home.htm
Internet Mental Health Resources  http://www.med.nyu.edu/Psych/src.psych.html
Mental Health Net  http://mentalhelp.net/

* Automobiles:
Kelley Blue Book-Bluebook Car Prices  http://www.kbb.com/
NADA  http://www.nadaguides.com/

Consumer info:
Product Reviewnet  http://www.productreviewnet.com/splash.html

Agriculture/horticulture:
Department of Soil Science-Dr. Soil Surfs  http://www.agri.upm.edu.my/jst/drsoil.html
The Garden Gate  http://garden-gate.prairienet.org/
HGA Horticultural Dictionary  http://www.garden.org/qanda/nga/definition.asp

Pets:
AVMA Care for Pets  http://www.avma.org/care4pets/default.htm
Practical Formulas:
Make Stuff-Formulas for lotions, potions, and remedies
http://www.makestuff.com/formulas.html

Food:
Refdesk.com-Food and Recipes http://www.refdesk.com/food.html

Home Improvement:
Handyman USA-Expert Advice and help for do-it-yourselfers
http://www.handymanusa.com/
Old House Web http://www.oldhouseweb.com

Business:
U.S. Business Advisor: Serving Businesses on Their Terms
http://www.business.gov
AnyWho: Telephone Number, Email, Home Page http://anywho.com/
Business and Legal Forms http://www.lectlaw.com/formb.htm

700s-ARTS
Books:
Game:

Art:
An art dictionary:
The Oxford Dictionary of Art. Ian Chilvers and Harold Osburn, editors.

A narrative history of art:

A handbook or dictionary or architecture:
Henry Holt.
*Antiques and Collectibles:

**Music:**

**Movies/Television/Theatre:**
*Leonard Maltin’s Movie and Video Guide.* Leonard Maltin. Plume, 1993-
*Roger Ebert’s Video Companion.* Roger Ebert. Andrews & McMeel, 1994-

**Internet sites**
**Art:**
Mother of all Art History Links  
[http://www.umich.edu/~hartspc/histart/mother](http://www.umich.edu/~hartspc/histart/mother)
World Wide Arts Resources-The Definitive Arts and Culture…  
Architecture Web Resources  
[http://library.nevada.edu/arch/rsrce/webrsrce/contents.html](http://library.nevada.edu/arch/rsrce/webrsrce/contents.html)

*Antiques:*
Christies  [http://www.christies.com/home.html](http://www.christies.com/home.html)
Kovels Home Page  [http://www.kovel.com](http://www.kovel.com)
Maloney’s Antiques & Collectibles Resource Directory  

**Music:**
The Classical Music Pages  [http://w3.rz-berlin.mpg.de/cmp/classmus.html](http://w3.rz-berlin.mpg.de/cmp/classmus.html)
JAZZ Links of World  [http://www.pk.edu.pl/~pmj/jazzlinks/_main.html](http://www.pk.edu.pl/~pmj/jazzlinks/_main.html)
Country.com-Country Music, Racing, Outdoors, TNN…  
[http://www.country.com/home.html](http://www.country.com/home.html)
Roughstock’s History of Country Music  www.roughstock.com/history/
The Mudcat Discussion Forum (blues and folk)
http://www.mudcat.org/threads.cfm
Billboard Online: Welcome  http://www.billboard-online.com/

Songs/lyrics:
SongFile Home  http://www.songfile.com/
Lyrics World  http://www.summer.com.br/~pfilho/
Song Lyrics; Libretti
http://www.music.indiana.edu/music_resources/songlyr.html
Campfire Song Book  http://www.web.co.za/scouts/songs/

Movies/Theater/Radio/TV:
The Internet Theatre Database  http://www.theatredb.com/
Musicals.Net  http://musicals.net/
The Internet Movie Database(IMDb). A database of more than 2,000 titles
http://us.imdb.com/
Movie Review Query Engine  http://www.mrqe.com/
Radio Days  http://www.otr.com/

Sports:
College Teams Nicknames  http://www.AFN.org/~recycler/sports.html#U
Crimson Tide Athletics Official Web Site  http://roll.tide.ua.edu/
Disabled Sports USA at a Glance  http://dsusa.org/glance.html
ESPN.com  http://espn.go.com
The Official Site of Auburn Athletics  http://www.auburn.edu/athletics/

800s-LITERATURE
Books
*Benet’s Readers Encyclopedia: the Classic and Only Encyclopedia of
Macmillan.

Style manuals:
As Needed:
Electronic Styles: a Handbook for Citing Electronic Information. Xia Li and Nancy B. Crane. Information Today.

The Columbia Granger’s Index to Poetry. Columbia University Press.
KEEP ALL EDITIONS

*Familiar Quotations: a Collection of Passages, Phrases, and Proverbs Traced To Their Sources in Ancient and Modern Literature. Justin Kaplan. Little, Brown. (Bartlett’s-keep all earlier editions)

Other Quotation books:
(Originally published by Facts on File)
Quotations in Black. Anita King, ed. Greenwood.

American Literature:
The Oxford Companion to African American Literature. William L. Andrews, Francis S. Foster and Trudier Harris, eds. Oxford University Pr.

Handbooks or guides to southern literature as needed:
**English Literature:**  

*Shakespeare for Students.* Mark W. Scott, ed. Gale.  
*Shakespeare for Students Book II.* Catherine C. Dominic, ed.  

**Literary Criticism:**  
It is almost impossible for public libraries to have enough sources on literary criticism, and most of the multi-volume sets such as *Contemporary Literary Criticism* and *Nineteenth-Century Literary Criticism* are extremely expensive. Sources on the Internet and the Alabama Virtual Library should provide students with a wealth of information. To supplement these electronic resources libraries might want to consider the Salem Press sets Edited by Frank N. Magill. They are less expensive and are suitable for small libraries. The “Masterplots II” series (drama, short story, poetry, American Fiction, Afro-American literature, etc) are arranged by title of the literary work. A synopsis and explication are provided. The “Critical Surveys series” (long fiction, short fiction, poetry, etc.) are arranged by author and provides general criticism of the author’s work using examples from specific titles.  

**A handbook or guide to children’s literature:**  
*Twentieth-Century Children’s Writers.* Laura Standley Berger, ed. St.James.  

**Internet Sites**  
**Style Manuals:**  
Karka’s Guide to Citation Style Guides  
[http://bailiwick.lib.uiowa.edu/journalism/cite.html](http://bailiwick.lib.uiowa.edu/journalism/cite.html)
Literary Terms:
Glossary of Literary Terms and Handbook of Rhetorical Devices
http://www.uky.edu/ArtsSciences/Classics/Harris/rhetform.html

Quotations:
The Quotation Page http://www.starlingtech.com/quotes/
LinkBank: Quotation Links
http://www.linkbank.net/get_links/default/quotes/8/

Concordances of Great Books http://www.concordance.com/

Poetry:
Poetry http://eserver.org/poetry/
Nanette’s Guide to Poetry on the Internet
http://www.sau.edu/library/poetry/poeindex.htm
Sonnet Central http://www.sonnets.org/

Plays:
Inter-Play Title Page http://www.portals.org/interplay

American Literature:
American Studies Web: Literature and Hypertext
http://www.georgetown.edu/crossroads/asw/lit.html

English Literature:
*VoS English Literature: English Literature Page
http://humanitas.ucsb.edu/shuttle/english.html

Literary Criticism:
*IPL Online Literary Criticism Collection Main Page
http://www.ipl.org/ref/litcrit/
Literary Resources on the Net http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/

Children’s Literature:
CLWG:Children’s Literature Web Guide
http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/index.html
Children’s and Young Adult Literature Sites
http://www.cofc.edu/~huntc/Kiddielinks.html
900s-History and Geography

Books:
A chronology or timeline:
*Chronicle of the World.* Dorling Kindersley.

Geography/Atlases:

Atlases as needed (at least one world and one United States) and travel guides:
*National Geographic Atlas of the World.* National Geographic Society

California and the West
Great Lakes
Mid-Atlantic
Northeast Northwest and Great Plains
Southwest
South Central

Dictionary or handbook of explorers:
*Who was Who in World Exploration.* Carl Waldman and Alan Wexter. Facts on File.
A guide to the states:

Addresses:

One volume biographical dictionaries:
Almanac of Famous People. Susan Stetler, ed. Gale.

American:
(Note: Notable American Women, 1607-1950: a Biographical Dictionary. and Notable American Women: the Modern Period. Harvard University. Press are now out-of-print. Do not discard if you have.)


As needed and/or as funds are available, a multi-volume set:
Or the new
A basic guide to genealogy and how to books as needed:


**World History:**

**American History:**

**Native Americans:**

**African Americans:**
Hispanics:
*Hispanic-American Almanac.* Nicolas Kanellos, ed. Gale

American history handbooks or guides:

Internet Sites:

*Alabama Dept. of Archives and History*  [http://www.archives.state.al.us](http://www.archives.state.al.us)
THE BEST SITE FOR ALABAMA HISTORY AND GENEALOGY

Geography/Maps:
Tiger Map Server Browser  [http://tiger.census.gov/cgi-bin/mapbrowse-tbl](http://tiger.census.gov/cgi-bin/mapbrowse-tbl)
*USGS Mapping Information: GNIS United States and Territories*

Biography:
Best Information on the Net-Biographical
[http://vweb.sau.edu/bestinfo/Refdesk/Biograph/bioindex.htm](http://vweb.sau.edu/bestinfo/Refdesk/Biograph/bioindex.htm)
Lives, the Biography Resource  [http://members.home.net/klanxner/lives/](http://members.home.net/klanxner/lives/)

Multicultural Personalities on the Internet
[http://www.ithaca.edu/library/htmls/multi.html](http://www.ithaca.edu/library/htmls/multi.html)

*Genealogy:
Cyndi’s List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet
Family Tree Maker’s Genealogy Site  http://www.familytreemaker.com/
RootsWeb  http://www.rootsweb.com/
Flags of all Countries  http://www.wave.net/upg/immigration/flags.html

**History Sites:**
The WWW-VL History Index  http://www.ukans.edu/history/VL/
American and British History Resources on the Internet
http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rulib/socsci/hist/amhist.html
*CIA World Fact Book
Internet Resources for Students of Afro-American History
http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rulib/socsci/hist/afrores.htm
Hispano Contributions to the United States of America, and to the World
http://www.neta.com/~1stbooks/
50 States and Capitals  http://www.50states.com/
National Register of Historic Places  http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/nrhome.html
The American Civil War Homepage  http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/
Documenting the American South
http://metalab.unc.edu/docsouth/dasmain.html
Depending on the implementation of the underlying collection the order of the elements may be different, the equals on collections is not always obvious, and so on. I have come across multiple examples of such cases in my career, and I decided to pick a couple of them and show a way to tackle with AssertJ, the assertions library you should definitely be using. When programming in Java you often end up writing methods returning a collection of objects. They certainly have their place in your application, but testing them can be a little tricky. Depending on the implementation of the underlying collection the order of the elements may be different, the equals on collections is not always obvious, and so on. Internally you hold a reference to the collection, which as Kent suggests could be marked as Readonly. Through the getter the caller can do what they want with the collection with the methods available (Add, Remove, Clear, AddRange, etc), but crucially they can never change the internal reference you hold to the collection object. This then allows you to control what methods are allowed. As Jamie suggests, having the property return type IEnumerable would result in the Bars property exposing a readonly collection. Exposing IList means the contents of the collection could be modified. I almost never expose a setter for a collection. 