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:

*Guide to Reference Books.* Robert Balay, ed. ALA.

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/
*Digital Librarian  http://servtech.com/~mvail/home.html
*The Internet Public Library  http://ipl.org/
Michigan Electronic Library  http://mel.lib.mi.us/
Stumpers-L  http://www.cuis.edu/~stumpers/
The World-Wide Web Virtual Library: Subject Catalog  
http://www.vlib.org/AlphaVL.html

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

Out-of-Print Dealers:
Advanced Book Exchange  http://Abebooks.com/
Alibris  http://www.alibris.com
Bibliofile  http://www.bibliofile.org
Bibliofind  http://www.bibliofind.com

Library and Professional Sites:
*American Library Association  www.ala.org
*Alabama Library Association  http://alala.home.mindspring.com
National Library Service for the Blind & Physically Handicapped  
http://lcweb.loc.gov/nls/
Copyright:  Digital Millennium Copyright Act  
http://www.arl.org/info/frn/copy/dmca.html
Library web pages: lib-web-cats  
http://library.vanderbilt.edu/breeding/libwebcats.html
LibraryLand: Index to Resources for Librarians  
http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/LibraryLand/index3.html
Libraryspot  http://libraryspot.com
Online serials directory: PubList.com: Home Page
http://www.publist.com
The School of Library and Information Studies, The University of Alabama http://slis.us.edu

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
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
Buddhist Resources  http://www.aril.org/Buddhist.html
Finding God in Cyberspace  http://users.ox.ac.uk/~mikef/durham/fgic/contents.htm
*InterFaithNet  http://www.exotrope.com/cgi-bin/search/ifn/form.cgi
Virtual Religion Index  http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~religion/vri/index.html

**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.


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/fdftf.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.legend.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:
American Sign Language: a Comprehensive Dictionary. Martin L.A.
Random House Webster’s American Sign Language Dictionary. Elaine
Costello. Random.

A reverse dictionary:

A thesaurus:
Roget’s International Thesaurus. Revised by Robert L. Chapman.
HarperCollins.
Houghton Mifflin.

A dictionary of foreign phrases:
The Harper Dictionary of Foreign Terms: Based on the Original Edition by

A visual dictionary:
Macmillan Visual Dictionary: Edicion Espanol/Ingles, Spanish/English

A usage guide:
Columbia University Pr.
Clarendon Press.
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
A Web of On-Line Dictionaries
http://www.facstaff.bucknell.edu/rbeard/diction.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:*
*Merriam-Webster’s Medical Desk Dictionary.* Merriam-Webster.
*Stedman’s Medical Dictionary.* Williams & Williams.

An anatomy atlas or handbook:

*A family guide to health:*

*A professional medical guide:*
The *Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy.* Merck.
The *Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment.* Appleton & Lange

*A guide to drugs:*
The *Physicians Desk Reference.* American Medical Association.

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

**Mental Health:**
The *Encyclopedia of Mental Health.* Ada P. Kahn and Jan Fawcett. Facts on File.
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:

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:**

**Medicine:**
*RxList-The Internet Drug Index  [http://www.rxlist.com](http://www.rxlist.com)
Tufts University Nutrition Navigator  [http://navigator.tufts.edu/](http://navigator.tufts.edu/)

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

*Automobiles:*

**Consumer info:**

**Agriculture/horticulture:**
Department of Soil Science-Dr. Soil Surfs  [http://www.agri.upm.edu.my/jst/drsoil.html](http://www.agri.upm.edu.my/jst/drsoil.html)

**Pets:**
AVMA Care for Pets  [http://www.avma.org/care4pets/default.htm](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:
*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
World Wide Arts Resources-The Definitive Arts and Culture…
http://wwar.com/
Architecture Web Resources
http://library.nevada.edu/arch/rsrce/webrsrce/contents.html

*Antiques:
Antiques Roadshow http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/roadshow/home.html
Christies http://www.christies.com/home.html
Kovels Home Page http://www.kovel.com
Maloney’s Antiques & Collectibles Resource Directory
http://www.maloneysonline.com/index.html

Music:
The Classical Music Pages http://w3.rz-berlin.mpg.de/cmp/classmus.html
JAZZ Links of World http://www.pk.edu.pl/~pmj/jazzlinks/_main.html
Country.com-Country Music, Racing, Outdoors, TNN…
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

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 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:

Internet Sites
Style Manuals:
Karka’s Guide to Citation Style Guides
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:

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
Mobile Travel Guides. 7 vols. Fodor’s Travel. Annual.
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:
*Facts about the States.* Joseph Kane, Janet Podell and Steven Anzovin, eds. Wilson.
*Worldmark Encyclopedia of the States.* Gale.

Addresses:

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

American:
and *Notable American Women: the Modern Period.* Harvard University.
Press are now out-of-print. Do not discard if you have.)
*Notable Black American Men.* Gale.
*Notable Black American Women.* Gale.


As needed and/or as funds are available, a multi-volume set:
*Current Biography.* Wilson. Annual.
Or the new
A basic guide to genealogy and how to books as needed:
Genealogical Pub.


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
Anyone have suggestions for a cheap, basic laptop that I could look into purchasing. My laptop of 2 years is on its last leg and I am looking for a new computer. I am looking to spend well under $1000. I honestly only use my computer for internet, music storage, and really nothing much more then occasionally typing a paper. Anyone have suggestions for a cheap, basic laptop that I could look into.