

# Background Research

## Why do Background Research?

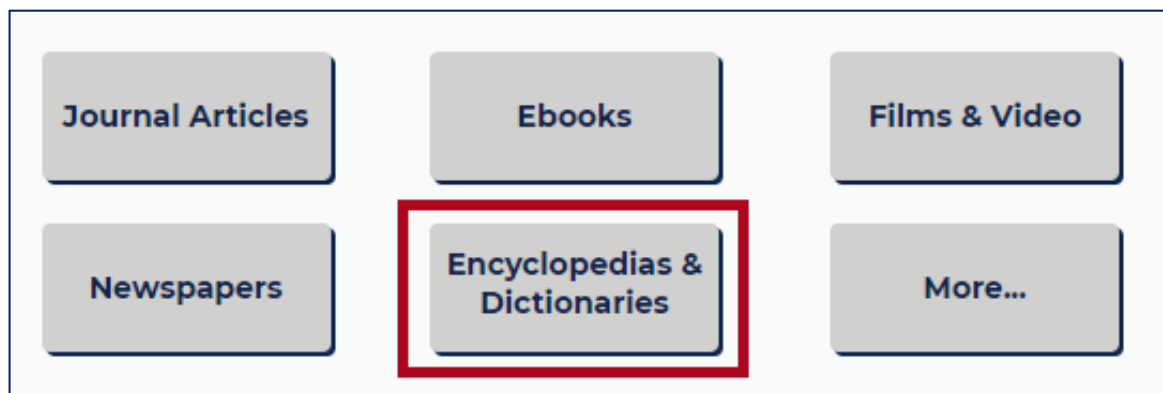
Background research provides general information to better understand a subject and provides useful keywords to help you build a search. Dictionaries and encyclopedias are credible resources for background research.

## Where to Locate these Resources

An easy way to locate background research is in the library's encyclopedias and dictionaries databases. Additional resources can be found on the web through a Google search or using a resource such as Wikipedia.

## How to Search for Encyclopedias and Dictionaries in the Library

1. Click on the **Encyclopedias & Dictionaries** button on the library's homepage.



2. Read the description of each database to determine if it will contain the type of information you need.

**Encyclopedias, Dictionaries & Reference**

[Credo Reference](#) ● ?  
This database gives you access to hundreds of reference books--including subject encyclopedias and dictionaries-- covering every major subject. There are over 3 million entries, 200,000+ images (art, diagrams, maps and photos), and over 100,000 audio pronunciation files and sound clips.

[SAGE Research Methods](#) ?  
SAGE Research Methods is an innovative online tool that connects you to over 120,000 pages of SAGE research methods books, journals, and reference material with advanced search features. The tool was created to help students and researchers across the social and behavioral sciences to design research projects, understand methods or identify new methods, conduct research, and write up their findings.

[Literary Reference Center \(EBSCOhost\)](#) ● ?  
This database provides access to reference sources such as *The Encyclopedia of Literature* as well as the *New Oxford English Dictionary*, and also provide access to plenty of biographical information of authors

See the [Credo Reference](#) and [SAGE Research Methods](#) tip sheets for assistance using the resources

## Are these Resources Scholarly?

No. Resources such as dictionaries and encyclopedias aren't considered scholarly because they're written for a general audience to gain a basic understanding and don't go through a rigorous peer-review process. Please reach out to your instructor for guidance before using one of these resources to support your assignment. Instructors have the final say as to whether a resource is appropriate or not.

## Background Research on the Web

The internet is a great place to find background research on a topic; however, since anyone can publish anything on the web, you need to be cautious about the sources you select. Guides to help determine the trustworthiness of online resources include:

- [What is CRAAPO?](#)
- [Evaluating Sources](#)
- [SIFT Method](#)

**Feeling stuck with your research? Reach out to a librarian:**

24/7 Library Tutoring | Phone Reference (866) 685-8089 M-Th 1 pm-5 pm | Email [library@uagc.edu](mailto:library@uagc.edu)