Reference works are a valuable source of background information at the beginning of research on a specific topic. They provide short overviews of topics, and may include bibliographies of readings on the topics.

The School of Education Library provides a selection of reference works in print format, including dictionaries, encyclopedias, and handbooks. In addition, the UWI Campus Libraries provide access to some electronic reference materials, and there are many others freely available on the Internet.

Print Reference Materials

These are located in the General Reference Section of the School of Education Library, as well as dispersed throughout the collection in the relevant subject areas. The following is a list of selected print reference materials.

Dictionaries


Encyclopedias


Handbooks


Electronic Reference Materials

Subscription Resources

Subscription reference materials provided by the UWI Campus Libraries can be accessed through the “Other E-Resources” link on the Alma Jordan Library’s home page

The following are three notable resources:

Britannica Online
This full-text encyclopedia includes more than 72,000 encyclopedia articles and year-in-review articles. Most articles are brief or of moderate length. The resource features the complete Encyclopedia Britannica, Britannica Concise Encyclopedia, and the Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary and Thesaurus.

Credo Reference
This is an online reference library of about 1200 reference books from over 70. It includes encyclopedias, dictionaries, and thesauri covering a range of subject areas. Interesting features includes a Citation Formatter, which formats citations for the user in the required style.

Oxford English Dictionary (OED Online)
This resource offers access to the wealth of material contained in the 20 volumes of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), which is the accepted authority on the evolution of the English language of the last millennium, and the 3-volume Addition Series.

Open Access Resources

There are many general and specialized reference works freely available on the Internet. The Alma Jordan Library’s Reference Sources page offers a selection of the general reference materials. The following is a selection of education-specific materials.

eLearning Glossary
Publisher: Cyber Media Creations LLC
URL: http://www.cybermediacreations.com/elearning/glossary.html
This is a collection of terms used in e-learning and their definitions.

The Encyclopedia of Educational Technology (EET)
Publisher: Department of Educational Technology. San Diego State University
URL: http://eet.sdsu.edu/eetwiki/index.php/Main_Page
This is a collection of short, multimedia articles on a variety of topics related to the fields of instructional design and education and training. Articles provide a brief overview as a starting point to further research on specific topics.

Encyclopaedia of Philosophy of Education
Editors: Michael A. Peters, Paulo Ghiraldelli, Jr., Paul Standish, Berislav Zarnic
URL: http://www.ffst.hr/ENCYCLOPAEDIA/doku.php?id=welcome
This encyclopedia contains entries about philosophers of education and philosophy of education written by several teachers of the Universities of the World.
Instructional Design
Author: Greg Kearsley
URL: http://www.instructionaldesign.org/index.html
This site is designed to provide information about instructional design principles and how they relate to teaching and learning.

Glossary of Common Test Terms
Publisher: Pearson Education
URL: http://www.pearsonschool.com/index.cfm?locator=PSZ3Lq&SubLocator=PSZ17y
This is a list of terms and definitions commonly used in testing and assessment. It was assembled from various published sources and from original text written by the Directors of Test Development at Pearson Assessments. It is hoped that it would aid understanding of the necessarily technical language used in assessment texts.

Glossary of Education Terms and Acronyms
Publisher: North Central Regional Educational Laboratory
URL: http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/misc/glossary.htm
This list provides definitions of terms and acronyms used in education administration.

Glossary of Instructional Strategies
Publisher: PlasmaLink Web Services
URL: http://glossary.plasmalink.com/glossary.html
This is a glossary of terms used when discussing teaching and instruction strategies. Currently catalogues some 1271 individual strategies and methods for instruction. Some strategies are simply identified, but many of the individual entries are linked to further electronic resources that elaborate or explain the particular approach.

A Glossary of Measurement Terms
Publisher: ERIC Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation
URL: http://ericae.net/edo/ed315430.htm
This ERIC Digest provides an alphabetical list of terms and their definitions used in measurement and evaluation.

Glossary of Reading Terms
Publisher: Reading Coherence Initiative. Southwest Educational Development Laboratory
URL: http://www.sedl.org/reading/framework/glossary.html
This is a list of terms intended to increase understanding of the terminology related to the cognitive foundations of reading and to reading instruction.

A Lexicon of Learning
Publisher: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
This online dictionary provides clear definitions of educational terms in everyday language.
PRIME (Platonic Realms Interactive Mathematics) Encyclopedia
Publisher: Math Academy Online: Platonic Realms
URL: http://www.mathacademy.com/pr/prime
This encyclopedia is an interactive web-based collection of mathematical terms and concepts, which can be browsed by subject. Entries include links to other terms within the encyclopedia and, when available, to an extended article for that topic.

Roget’s International Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases
Publisher: Bartleby.com
URL: http://www.bartleby.com/110/
This thesaurus contains 85,000 hyperlinked cross-references, in addition to over 2,900 proverbs and quotations from classic and modern authors, which are used to illustrate the 1,000 plus entries.

Special Education Dictionary
Publisher: Parentpals.com
URL: http://www.parentpals.com/2.0dictionary/dictnewsindex.html
This is a fairly extensive list of terms used in the field of special education, with short definitions.

July 2013