Reference Sources

Use reference sources for background information, broad overviews and summaries. The reference collection includes general and subject dictionaries and encyclopedias, biographies, directories, almanacs, atlases, etc. Many also contain bibliographies for further research. Reference books cannot be checked out from the library but may be photocopied. Selected subject specific resources include:

- Dictionary of Furniture, NK2205.D5 2001
- Elements of Style: A Practical Encyclopedia of Interior Architectural Details, from 1485 to the Present, NA2850.E44 1991
- Interior Design Handbook of Professional Practice, NK2116.I58 2002

Books and DVDs

Use the library catalog to find materials in the library. This will show you all the books and audiovisual materials both LPC Library and Chabot library own. You can search for a book or video by the author, title, subject, or keyword. A subject search allows you to find books about a topic or a person. In power search you may also LIMIT your search in many ways, for instance by type, "DVD" or type, "video" to find only DVDs or videos.

Examples of Subject Heading Searches:

- Bedrooms
- Children's Rooms
- Color in Interior Decoration
- Decoration and Ornament
- Do-It-Yourself Work and Amateur's Manuals
- Draperies in Interior Decoration
- Feng Shui
- Furniture
- Furniture--History
- House Furnishings
- House Plants in Interior Decoration
- Interior Architecture

Selected Book Titles

- Architectural Lighting Design, TH7703.S78 2002
- Architecture and Interior Design through the 18th Century: An Integrated History, NK1710.H37 2002
- Art Nouveau. NK775.5.A7.M547 2004
Codes Guidebook for Interiors, KF5701.H37 2001
Construction Drawings and Details for Interiors: Basic Skills, TH2031.K54 2003
Contemporary Interiors for the Under 5’s, NK2117.C4.J66 2005
Corporate Interiors No. 5, NA6230.C67 2003
Domus: Wall Painting in the Roman House, ND2575.M39 2004
History of Interior Design and Furniture: From Ancient Egypt to Nineteenth-Century Europe, NK1710.B57 1997
Hotel: Interior Structures, NA7800.C87 2003
Ingo Maurer, NK2115.5.W43 2003
Interior Construction & Detailing for Designers and Architects, TH2025.B35 2002
Interior Design Illustrated, NA2850.C45 2005
Interior Lighting for Designers, TH7975.G67 2003
Interiores Mexicanos, NK2014.I68 2000
Light Your Home, NK2115.5.L5.W55 2005
Lighting by Design, NK2115.5.L5 C88 2003
Lighting Design Basics, TH7703.K27 2004
Living with Textiles, NK2115.5.F3.L68 2001
Space Planning Basics, NA2765.K37 2004
Space Planning for Commercial and Residential Interiors, NA2765.K82 2003
Time-Saver Standards for Interior Design and Space Planning, NK2110.T48 2001
Selected DVD Titles

*Color in Everyday Life*, DVD NK2115.5.C6 C64 2006
*Dessau's Bauhaus*, DVD N332.G33.D47 2004
*Lighting: Designing New Ways to See*, DVD NK2115.5.L5.L55 2004

**Periodicals and Databases**

Periodicals provide in-depth analyses of events and trends, research studies on particular subjects, and professional literature. When conducting research in both the social and physical sciences it is important to know the difference between “popular” periodical literature and more scholarly publications. A good guide to recognizing the differences between popular magazines and scholarly journals can be found at the LPC Library Students web page - Scholarly Journals or Popular Magazines: What are the Differences? LPC Library Short Guide <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/library/magazines_journals.php>.

**Academic Search Premier (EBSCO)** – provides full text for nearly 4,500 journals, including full text for more than 3,600 peer-reviewed titles. PDF back files to 1975 or further are available for well over one hundred journals. Under **Search Options** you can also limit your search in order to retrieve materials from peer-reviewed journals or full-text articles. If you are looking for something from a specific publication you can limit your search by entering the name of the magazine or journal.

**Sample Search Terms**

- Bathrooms
- Bedrooms
- Children’s Rooms
- Color in Interior Decoration
- Decoration & Ornament
- Draperies
- Floor Coverings
- Furniture
- House Furnishings
- Interior Decoration
- Kitchens
- Lighting

Articles listed will include the title and author of the article, the name of the magazine in which the article appears, the pages and the date of the issue. It will also state whether Las Positas Library owns the magazine and whether the full-text article is available.

**Internet Resources**

You may want to explore some Internet resources to supplement or enhance your research. Always be cautious of information you find on the Web since the quality of sources varies tremendously on the Internet. It is always a good idea to check the information against another source. As with all information resources, whether in print or on the Internet, you evaluate its quality based on the following criteria:

- **Accuracy**
  - Is it free from mistakes and errors?
- **Authority**
  - What are the qualifications of the author?
- **Objectivity**
  - Is there any strong bias?
- **Currency**
  - Is the information up-to-date?
- **Coverage**
  - To what extent is the topic explored?
Examples of Relevant Web Sites

American Society of Interior Designers <http://www.interiors.org/>. Based in Washington, D.C., this organization serves as an advocate for interior design professionals and students. The site lists industry and product news as well as information on "green design," accessible design, and relevant codes and standards.

California Legislative Coalition for Interior Design <http://www.clcid.org/>. State legislative site promotes laws which help interior designers and provides sources for continuing education programs for members of the interior design industry.

Interiors and Sources Magazine <http://www.isdesignet.com/a>. Focusing mainly on commercial interior designers, this site does contain links to products, and to professional associations of interest to interior design professionals.

International Interior Design Association <http://www.iida.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1>. An advocacy organization that promotes education and research in interior design, the Knowledge Center link points to research topics and industry news.

National Kitchen and Bath Association <http://www.nkba.org/>. Educational and industry links abound on this site. A gallery of design competition winners for kitchens, bathrooms, and other rooms is posted along with floor plans and design statements.

Occupational Outlook Entry on Interior Designers <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos293.htm>. This U. S. Department of Labor site discusses the nature of interior design work, job outlook, potential earnings, and educational requirements for interior designers.

Librarians' Internet Index <http://www.lii.org/>

- Suggestion: Do a keyword search for "interior design" as in the example given here:
- Or choose another descriptive keyword. Once you find a good site, click on the magnifying glass icon and try searching one of the Library of Congress Subject Headings listed.

Citation of Sources

Keep printouts of your sources, or write out all pertinent information on author, title, publisher, date, or Internet address to identify where you got the information. Follow the format recommended by your instructor or ask a librarian to show you a "style manual." There are links to various citation formats on the Citation Style Guides page <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/library/cited.php>, for example, as well as the online resource, NoodleBib, a bibliography composer.

See the Citation Style Guides link on the LPC Library home page for more online help.

Updated by Alison Finch, Adjunct Librarian

Please ask a reference librarian for assistance!