

Gaming Research Tips

.....quick start for studies, reports and papers

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Tip Sheet #3: Reference Materials

What are they? Books of facts used to answer quick questions are reference materials.

Directory. A directory is a contact list containing names and numbers. It may list companies, organizations or people.

Typical data: address, phone, e-mail address, web site, mission, goals and publications.

Casino directories can be found in print and online. [Casino City](#) lists casinos worldwide.

The [Gaming Business Directory](#), a fee-based site, lists casinos in the U. S. (including Native American) and Canada.

Details include names of executive officers and department managers, plus statistics on slot machines, restaurants, room count, and more.

Also lists gaming manufacturers and suppliers and gaming analysts.

Sample directory questions:

- What are the e-mail address and web URL of the Bellagio in Las Vegas?
- Who is the CEO of Mandalay Bay Casino?
- Who is the Human Resources Director at Harrah's in Reno, NV?
- How many slot machines does Foxwoods (Connecticut) have?

---Who are the members of the Michigan Gaming Control Board?

Encyclopedia. An encyclopedia contains articles on various topics researched by scholars. In gaming there is ***The Encyclopedia of Gambling***, compiled by Carl Sifakis.

Another title, ***Gambling in America: An Encyclopedia of History, Issues and Society***, by William N. Thompson examines not just games, but events, policies and laws.

Both books list gambling terms, gambling personalities, and brief descriptions of games, with illustrations.

Sample encyclopedia questions:

- What are the rules of blackjack?
- What is compulsive gambling?
- What movies besides *Ocean's Eleven* were set in casinos?
- How far back in history does gambling extend?
- What does the layout of a craps table look like?

Dictionary. A dictionary defines words, Entries are usually shorter than in encyclopedias.

A specialized dictionary may be called a glossary. A biographical dictionary (e.g., a *Who's Who*) can be used to identify prominent people.

Useful dictionaries for gaming may go beyond the obvious to include the **Oxford English Dictionary** or the **International Dictionary of Psychology**.

Sample dictionary questions:

- If a gambler needs "aversion therapy", what does this involve?
- Who said, "A roulette ball has no memory"?
- In casino slang, what is a "toke"?
- What is the name of the building where Jai Alai is played?
- Do roulette wheels in Britain have the Double Zero?
- Where does the word "wager" appear in the writings of Shakespeare?
- What is meant by "Acey Deucey"?

Almanac. An almanac is a book of facts usually with tables and charts. It may be known by other names, such as an Abstract, Manual or Handbook.

The **Nevada Gaming Almanac**, published annually, lists each Nevada casino, its address, key officers, machine games and tables, casino square footage and other interesting facts. Almanacs may exist for other gaming states as well.

The **Nevada Gaming Abstract**, shows casino statistics for regions of the State (not individual casinos) on such topics as gaming revenue, hotel revenue, food & beverage revenue, and expenditures.

Sample almanac questions:

- Is the number of slot machines in Nevada near 50,000, 100,000 or 200,000?
- What important hotel/casino function annually loses money?
- In Washoe County, NV, what is the ratio of music/entertainment expenses to gaming revenue?
- What is the value of the fixed assets for Clark County, NV casinos?
- How much money was wagered in U. S. casinos last year?

- Who owns the Lake Tahoe Horizon Casino Resort?
- How many Nevada convenience stores, grocery and drug stores have slot machines?

Bibliography. A bibliography is a list of books and articles on a topic with complete citations showing author, title, publisher, date and pages (articles, only). An annotated bibliography has extra notes on the contents.

A bibliography helps your literature review. You discover what has been studied and who the leading authorities are.

Casino Gaming in the United States: A Research Guide, by Mirkovich and Cowgill is an annotated bibliography limited to publications from 1985-1994. Though outdated it serves as an excellent background.

Sample bibliography questions:

- What institutes publish gaming books and conference proceedings?
- What is the oldest book on gambling you can find?
- What government hearings relate to your gaming topic?
- Who publishes transcripts of the oral histories of Nevada gaming pioneers?
- What instructional videos on playing various casino games can you list?
- What gaming theses or dissertations were completed in the last 5 years?

Periodical Indexes & Abstracts.

Periodicals may be journals, magazines, newspapers, and annual supplements.

Abstracts are summaries that save time, letting you know up front if the article is relevant to your research.

Today's electronic sources go beyond citations and summaries to link to the full text of the article.