

Forensic Science Resource Guide

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This guide provides selected information resources on forensic science. Included are Sawyer Library subscription databases and reference books, and selected websites freely available on the internet.

Databases and E-Reference Books

SciFinder Scholar (available at the Suffolk University Chemistry Department)

SciFinder is an interface that searches the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) databases. The database covers "a wide diversity of research from many scientific disciplines, including biomedical sciences, chemistry...and more." Use this source for any forensic science topic in chemistry but be aware that only limited number of links to full-text journal articles are available.

[HighWire Press](#)

<http://www.highwire.org>

HighWire Press, a division of the Stanford University Libraries, produces this high-quality database of more than 1,000 scholarly journals from over 140 publishers but not all of the articles you retrieve are freely accessible, i.e. you may be asked if you want to purchase an article. Journals in the biological sciences, chemistry, criminology, and psychology in this database may be relevant to your forensic science research. You may include PubMed as well as HighWire-

hosted journals in your searches.

[MEDLINE](#)

Produced by the National Library of Medicine, this database provides authoritative biomedical articles on medicine, dentistry, pre-clinical sciences, and more. Contains some links to full-text articles.

[Academic Search Complete](#)

This multi-disciplinary database provides full-text for more than 5,500 publications, including full-text for more than 4,600 peer-reviewed journals. Among the subjects included in this database are forensic chemistry, DNA fingerprinting, and forensic psychology.

[Academic OneFile](#)

Like [Academic Search Complete](#), this is also a multi-disciplinary database providing bibliographic information and full-text articles from more than 10,000 popular and peer-reviewed journals. Among the subjects included in this database are forensic chemistry, toxicology, genetics, anthropology, ballistics, and psychology.

[PsycINFO, PsycARTICLES, PsycBOOKS](#)

Consider searching these 3 databases simultaneously to find articles about forensic psychology. [PsycINFO](#) indexes and abstracts scholarly journal articles, book chapters, books, and dissertations. [PsycARTICLES](#) provides the full-text of scholarly and scientific articles in psychology from over 60 journals plus chapters from selected APA books. [PsycBOOKS](#) is a full-text database consisting of chapters from over 1,500 books published by the APA and other scholarly publishers plus the contents of the APA/Oxford University Press *Encyclopedia of Psychology*.

[Criminal Justice Abstracts](#)

This database is primarily an index, with abstracts, of literature in criminology and related disciplines while the criminology SAGE Full-Text collection in [SAGE Journals Online](#) includes the full-text of 24 journals covering subjects such as forensic psychology.

[JSTOR](#)

JSTOR, the self-described "scholarly journal archive," includes full-text forensic science articles found mostly in the anthropology, biological sciences, and general science categories. If you are doing historical research on forensic science, you will appreciate JSTOR's policy of including the entire backfile of journals in its database.

[Wiley Interscience](#) (includes Blackwell Synergy)

Wiley-Blackwell, a major science, technology, and medical publisher, produces this database. We have access to the full-text of about 1,400 of its scholarly journals. There is some coverage of forensic topics in the life and physical sciences journals and you will find more articles in the areas of chemistry, behavioral sciences, and psychology. Coverage is from the mid-1990's.

Journal titles from Blackwell Synergy were merged into this database in mid-2008.

[SpringerLink](#)

Springer is a major publisher of scientific, technical, and medical (STM) books and journals. Includes some coverage of forensic science topics from publications such as *Methods in Molecular Biology*, *Forensic DNA Typing Protocols*, and *International Journal of Legal Medicine*.

[BioOne](#)

Self-described as a "valuable aggregation of the full-texts of high-impact bioscience research journals... published by small societies and other not-for-profit organizational publishers." Useful for articles on forensic entomology.

[LexisNexis Academic](#)

Law reviews and legal news are only two of the information sources in this huge full-text database where you will find articles related to forensic science. You can also search for forensic science articles in U.S. and international newspapers, newswires, and in web blogs.

[World of Forensic Science](#)

This online 2-volume reference work in the [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) is an encyclopedia that aims to "cover the individuals, techniques, and principles of biology, chemistry, law, medicine, physics, computer science, geology, and psychology involved in the multidisciplinary approach of examining crime scenes and evidence to be used in legal proceedings." Handy source for concise treatment of topics.

[Encyclopedia of Forensic Sciences](#)

The publisher, Elsevier, describes this reference source as providing "comprehensive coverage of the core theories, methods, techniques, and applications employed by forensic scientists." The articles can be accessed via an alphabetical list of titles or a subject index, and keyword searching is also supported. Each article is signed and concludes with a list of cross-references. Articles tend to be more in-depth than those in [World of Forensic Science](#).

Federal Government Websites

[U.S. Department of Justice: Publications & Documents](#)

http://www.usdoj.gov/05publications/05_3.html

The DOJ website includes a link to the [National Institute of Justice \(NIJ\) Publications](#) page. NIJ, the "research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice," maintains a collection of freely accessible online publications that can be searched by keyword or by topic, e.g. forensic sciences. The DOJ website also links to the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service \(NCJRS\)](#) which is co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice. The NCJRS website

is the home of the [In the Spotlight: Forensic Science](#) page which provides links to resources such as facts and figures, programs, grants and funding, and [forensic science publications](#).

[President's DNA Initiative](#)

<http://www.dna.gov>

On October 30, 2004, the President signed into law the "Justice for All Act of 2004" which, among other things, sets out to improve crime laboratories' capacities to analyze DNA samples and to develop training about the collection and use of DNA evidence. The website for the DNA Initiative includes a link to the full-text of the Act, a page on [Publications for Forensic Scientists](#), news, announcements of training resources, and links to other resources.

[Federal Bureau of Investigation](#)

<http://www.fbi.gov>

The FBI website has a number of links pertaining to forensic science. The [Federal Bureau of Investigation Reports & Publications](#) page lists full-text FBI publications such as the [Handbook of Forensic Services](#) and [Forensic Science Communications](#). The [FBI Laboratory Services](#) page links to descriptions of forensic science services provided by the FBI Laboratory such as the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) and the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS).

Directories and Metasites

[Criminal Justice Resources: Forensic Science](#)

<http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/crimjust/forsci.htm>

Maintained by Jon Harrison, a librarian at the Michigan State University Libraries, this resource guide contains links to associations and organizations, forensic science websites, and individual forensic science articles and publications on the web.

[Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science: Sources for Scholars and Aficionados](#) (*College & Research Libraries News, October 2003*)

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/publications/crlnews/2003/oct/criminalinvestigation.cfm>

This article is a concise guide containing annotated links to: free forensic science gateway sites; e-journals, databases, and handbooks; organizations' websites; medical death investigation sites; links to the websites for a couple of TV shows related to forensic science, and more. The author of the article is Kristine M. Alpi, library manager of the Public Health Library of the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene.

[Forensic Science Resources on the Internet](#) (*Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship, Spring 2003*)

<http://www.istl.org/03-spring/internet.html>

Cynthia Holt, a librarian at George Washington University, has written this extensive, well-organized, annotated guide to internet resources for forensic science. Topics covered include:

chemistry and toxicology; DNA analysis; forensic botany; and ethics, among others. Ms. Holt is also the author of a guide to [Forensic Sciences](#) available on the website of the Gelman Library at George Washington University.

[Zeno's Forensic Site](#)

<http://forensic.to/forensic.html>

Zeno Geradts is a forensic scientist at the Netherlands Forensic Institute of the Ministry of Justice. His website is a directory to forensic science, forensic medicine, and forensic psychiatry information on the internet. The site is keyword searchable and also browsable by topics listed on the site homepage.

[Reddy's Forensic Page](#)

<http://www.forensicpage.com>

Like [Zeno's Forensic Site](#), this site is a gateway or directory to forensic science resources on the internet. The site is run by Reddy P. Chamakura, a forensic scientist with the Police Laboratory, New York City Police Department. The site cannot be searched by keyword but can easily be browsed by any of the homepage's descriptive subject headings such as crime scene processing, forensic nursing, forensic entomology, and forensic pathology and medicine.

Association Websites

[American Academy of Forensic Sciences](#)

<http://www.aafs.org>

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences website includes information about membership, job openings, and information about upcoming meetings. A selection of additional forensic science association websites includes: the [American College of Forensic Examiners International](#); the [American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors](#); the [Canadian Society of Forensic Science](#); and the [Association for Crime Scene Reconstruction](#).

[American Academy of Forensic Sciences: Education Opportunities](#)

http://www.aafs.org/default.asp?section_id=resources&page_id=colleges_and_universities

The website of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences lists forensic science undergraduate and graduate programs within the United States and outside the United States, and forensic science programs accredited by the AAFS Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC).

Selected Print Resources

[Forensic Science](#)

REF HV8073 .F5837 2009

The 3 volumes of this encyclopedia contain over 400 signed articles arranged alphabetically. Covers a wide range of topics. Each article includes a bibliography for further reading on the topic. Provides more detailed coverage of each topic than [World of Forensic Science](#).

[Forensic Science : an Illustrated Dictionary](#)

REF HV8073 .B677 2004

The entries in this dictionary are predictably brief but there are lots of photographs throughout.

[Forensic Science : An Encyclopedia of History, Methods, and Techniques](#)

REF HV8073 .T55 2006

Self-described as providing "a historical and technical frame of reference for the interested lay reader looking for increased general knowledge or more detail on specific applications or famous cases."

[Forensic Science Handbook](#), 2nd edition

REF HV8073 .F585

vols. 1 (2002), 2 (2005), & 3 (2010)

A well-regarded reference work containing survey chapters written by forensic experts dealing with "subjects relevant to the services rendered by crime laboratories and related facilities." Topics include forensic applications of mass spectrometry and forensic mitochondrial DNA analysis.

[Handbook of Forensic Drug Analysis](#)

REF RA1160 .H36 2005

Non-instrument, spectroscopy, and other methods of forensic analysis are discussed in chapters dealing with cocaine, hallucinogens, opioids, and amphetamines.

[Hallucinogens : a Forensic Handbook](#)

REF RM324.8 .H35 2003

Intended as a cross-disciplinary reference for the chemical composition, detection, and analysis of the most commonly abused hallucinogens such as LSD, MDMA, and PCP.

[Drug Abuse Handbook](#)

REF RM316 .D76 2007

Chapters discuss topics such as pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, neurochemistry and medical complications of drug abuse, and postmortem toxicology.

[Color Atlas of Forensic Pathology](#)

REF RA1063.4 .D58 2000

Color photographs and the author's commentary address many types of causes of death that confront forensic pathologists.

[Atlas of Human Hair Microscopic Characteristics](#)

REF RA1061 .O37 1999

The illustrations, photographs, and text provide information about hair characteristics useful for comparison "between an evidence hair and exemplar hairs from an individual."

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