

Research Database Tips
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Resources for Assignments in the Biological Sciences

Students taking classes in the biological sciences are asked to write papers or make posters or PowerPoint presentations on topics directly related to their course work. Assignments in Biology Fundamentals vary widely depending on the instructor and may simply involve any topic included in the course, current scientific studies in the field, or a discussion of a current medical test or therapy. Anatomy and Physiology I & II cover the systems of the human body and each requires a paper relating to one of those systems. Microbiology students are required to create posters on cell structure and/or microorganisms. The interrelationship of content between classes in the biological sciences suggests that many of the same reference sources may be useful in both basic and advanced classes in the field.

Access Science

Access Science is an expanded online version of *The McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology*. In addition to the generally recognized natural and physical sciences, it includes articles on agriculture and soil science, computers and information technology, food science and technology, mathematics, and psychiatry and psychology. *Access Science* also includes over 2000 biographies of well-known scientists and a large number of very useful animations, videos and images. Articles are updated continuously and research updates are added as needed. It also highlights important new scientific discoveries under its News tab every week.

Access Science is a useful place to start for any topic in biology. It provides excellent information about the anatomy and physiology of the human body including common related diseases. Students taking microbiology will find excellent pictures and diagrams for their poster project.

Credo Reference

Credo Reference includes the full content of a varied assortment of reference books (no magazines or journals). The biological sciences are well represented. Some possibly useful titles in the collection are:

<i>The Brain Book</i>	<i>Encyclopedia of Insects</i>
<i>Collins Dictionary of Biology</i>	<i>Encyclopedia of the Human Brain</i>
<i>Concise Encyclopedia of Plant Pathology</i>	<i>Encyclopedia of the Human Genome</i>
<i>DNA Technology: a Reference Handbook</i>	<i>The Evolution Wars: a Guide to the Debates</i>
<i>Dictionary of Developmental Biology and Embryology</i>	<i>Human Body Book: an Illustrated Guide to Its Structure, Function and Disorders</i>
<i>Dictionary of Microbiology and Molecular Biology</i>	<i>Human Evolution: a Guide to the Debates</i>
	<i>Princeton Guide to Ecology</i>

The entire contents of *Credo Reference* can be searched using the basic search box.

Gale Science in Context

Gale Science in Context provides information found in reference books, academic journals, magazines, newspapers and screened websites for topics covering a broad range of scientific interests. Videos, images and audio recordings are sometimes available. It is a good place to look for general topics in biology and microbiology.

Health and Wellness Resource Center

The Health and Wellness Resource Center provides human health and disease information found in books, fact sheets, magazines, journals, news articles and videos. Anatomy and Physiology students will find excellent information on body systems and the diseases that affect them. Common medical tests are also covered.

Nursing Resource Center

The Nursing Resource Center is designed for nursing students needing information about diseases and their diagnosis and care. Anatomy and Physiology students will find excellent coverage of diseases affecting human systems here. Biology students needing information about medical tests will find detailed information by clicking on the diagnostics tab after the search results appear.

Journal Articles

Some biology students are asked to do a written project related to a current scientific study. This information appears in journal articles.

Proquest Biology Journals is part of the larger *Proquest Central* database. It provides full-text indexing for a large number of journals in the biological sciences.

Academic OneFile covers all academic disciplines including the biological sciences. It provides full-text indexing for many biology-related journals.

Academic Search Complete also covers all academic disciplines including the biological sciences. It provides full-text indexing for many biology-related journals as well.

Each of the journal databases listed above covers a different group of journals. Students may need to check more than one of them to find a research study that fits the criteria of the assignment.