**Reference Sources**

**Thesaurus:** <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thesaurus> In general usage, a **thesaurus** is a [reference work](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reference_work) that lists words grouped together according to similarity of meaning (containing [synonyms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synonyms) and sometimes [antonyms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonyms)), in contrast to a [dictionary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dictionary), which provides [definitions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Definitions) for words, and generally lists them in alphabetical order. The main purpose of such reference works is to help the user “to find the word, or words, by which [an] idea may be most fitly and aptly expressed” – to quote [Peter Mark Roget](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Mark_Roget), architect of the best known thesaurus in the English language.

**Dictionary**: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dictionary> A **dictionary** is a collection of [words](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Words) in one or more specific [languages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages), often listed [alphabetically](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alphabetical_order) (or by [radical and stroke](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radical-and-stroke_sorting) for [ideographic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ideographic) languages), with usage information, [definitions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Definitions), [etymologies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Etymologies), [phonetics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phonetics), [pronunciations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pronunciations), and other information;[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dictionary#cite_note-Web1-1) or a book of words in one language with their equivalents in another, also known as a [lexicon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lexicon)

**Telephone Book**: <http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_book> A **telephone book** is a kind of book that has lists of phone numbers of people and businesses. People use phone books to look up the phone numbers of people and places when they need to call them.

Atlas: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlas> An **atlas** is a collection of [maps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Map); it is typically a map of [Earth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth) or a region of Earth, but there are atlases of the other planets (and their satellites) in the [Solar System](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_System). Furthermore atlases of [anatomy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anatomy) exist, mapping out the human body or other organisms.[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] Atlases have traditionally been bound into book form, but today many atlases are in[multimedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multimedia) formats. In addition to presenting [geographic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic) features and [political](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political) boundaries, many atlases often feature[geopolitical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geopolitical), [social](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social), [religious](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious) and [economic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic) [statistics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statistics).

**Encyclopedia:** <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Encyclopedia> An **encyclopedia** ([also spelled](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_and_British_English_differences) **encyclopaedia** or **encyclopædia**)[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Encyclopedia#cite_note-Oxford_English_Dictionary-1) is a type of [reference work](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reference_work) – a [compendium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compendium) holding a summary of[information](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information) from either all branches of [knowledge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knowledge) or a particular branch of knowledge.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Encyclopedia#cite_note-2) Encyclopedias are divided into [articles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Article_(publishing)) or entries, which are usually accessed [alphabetically](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alphabetical_order) by article name.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Encyclopedia#cite_note-DOLencyclopedia-3) Encyclopedia entries are longer and more detailed than those in most[dictionaries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dictionary).[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Encyclopedia#cite_note-DOLencyclopedia-3) Generally speaking, unlike dictionary entries, which focus on [linguistic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguistics) information about [words](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Word), encyclopedia articles focus on [factual](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fact) information to cover the thing or concept for which the article name stands

**Almanac:** <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Almanac> An **almanac** (also archaically spelled *almanack* and *almanach*) is an [annual publication](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annual_publication) that includes information such as weather forecasts, farmers' planting dates, tide tables, and tabular information often arranged according to the [calendar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calendar). [Astronomical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astronomy) data and various statistics are found in almanacs, such as the times of the rising and setting of the [sun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun) and [moon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moon), [eclipses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eclipse), hours of full [tide](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tide), stated festivals of [churches](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_(building)), and so on.