

Subject Guide to Astronomy and Physics

Browsing the Astronomy and Physics Collections

The call number headings for astronomy and physics are QB and QC, respectively. In the event that you do not find what you are looking for by browsing, please consult Merlin, the online catalog. Below are tables of the Library of Congress Classification schemes for the two disciplines.

Astronomy

QB 1-139	General	QB 455-466	Astrophysics and Astrogeology
QB 140-237	Practical Astronomy	QB 500.5-903	Solar System and Stars
QB 349-421	Theoretical Astronomy	QB 980-991	Cosmology

Physics

QC 81-114	Weights and Measures	QC 350-467	Optics
QC 120-168.85	Descriptive and Experimental Mechanics	QC 474-496.9	Radiation
QC 170-197	Atomic Physics	QC 501-766	Electricity and Magnetism
QC 221-246	Acoustics	QC 770-798	Nuclear Physics
QC 251-338.5	Heat (Thermodynamics)	QC 801-999	Geophysics and Meteorology

Selected Reference Books

Astronomy

- 📖 **Encyclopedia of Space and Astronomy** [QB 136 .A55 2006 Ref] – covers the key concepts in the “relationship between modern astronomy and space technology.”
- 📖 **Encyclopedia of the Solar System** [QB 501 .E53 1999 Ref] – regarded as a complete reference guide to the subject, this work contains scholarly articles and overviews of each topic. The intended readership is both researchers and the amateur.
- 📖 **History of Astronomy: An Encyclopedia** [QB 15 .H624 1997 Ref] – supplies and summarizes the historical research and studies in the field of astronomy. Bibliographies for further study are included.
- 📖 **Oxford Dictionary of Astronomy** [QB 14 .D52 2003 Ref] – brief definitions of thousands of astronomical terms.

Physics

- 📖 **A to Z of Physicists** [QC 15 .L45 2003 Ref] – brief biographies on noted physicists. Bibliographies are included for further study.
- 📖 **The Basics of Physics** [QC 21.3 .M94 2006 Ref] – covers general concepts in physics. This work also includes conversion tables, a glossary, and a bibliography.
- 📖 **CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics** [QD 65 .H3 year Ready Ref] – popular reference source that includes definitions, tables, diagrams, and charts of valuable chemical information.
- 📖 **Dictionary of Geophysics, Astrophysics, and Astronomy** [QB 14 .D53 2001 Ref] – dictionary of over 3,500 terms.
- 📖 **Encyclopedia of Physics** [QC 5 .R596 2004 Ref] – an introduction to physics, this volume includes definitions, formulas, biographies, and illustrations.
- 📖 **Encyclopedia of Scientific Units, Weights and Measures** [QC 94 .C295 2003 Ref] – includes unit definitions and conversion factors.
- 📖 **How Things Work: The Physics of Everyday Life** [QC 21.2 .B59 1997 Ref] – aimed at undergraduates, this work encourages students to see the world as less mysterious and more as a predictable series of causes and effects.

📖 **MacMillan Encyclopedia of Physics** [QC 5 .M15 1996 Ref] – wide range of signed articles intended for a wide readership. Bibliographies and cross references are given after each entry.

Selected Databases

- 📖 **Astronomical Journal** – Original papers resulting from research covering all areas of astronomy.
- 📖 **General Science Collection** [EBSCOhost] ^{Off Campus Full Text} – Full-text of over 60 popular science journals and magazines.
- 📖 **Scirus** (1930-present) ^{Off-Campus} – scholarly and authoritative journal and Internet literature for computer science, math, biology, chemistry, and space. Includes thousands of technical reports from NASA.

Along with the subject-specific databases listed above, please consult the interdisciplinary databases such as **Academic Search Premier** and **MasterFile**. These databases provide substantial amounts of useful information on many topics.

Selected Web Sites

- 🔗 **American Physical Society's Physics Internet Resources** [<http://positron3.aps.org/resources/index.cfm>] – Provides information under the following categories: Exhibitions, Publications, Physics Organizations, Scientific Reference Sites, Scientific Societies, Physics Portals, and APS Department Links. This is probably the first place to stop on the Web for physics information.
- 🔗 **AstroWeb** [<http://www.cv.nrao.edu/fits/www/astronomy.html>] – sponsored by the Space Telescope Science Institute, this site provides links to Internet resources on research areas, organizations, biographies, observing, and data resources.
- 🔗 **Help For Physics Students** [http://www.dctech.com/physics/student_help.php] – The most useful sections of this site are the physics problems, lecture notes, and online tutorials. Since there are so many external links on this page, the probability you will get a broken link is high, but the sections mentioned above do seem like they would be helpful for physics students.
- 🔗 **NASA Astrophysics Data System** [<http://adswww.harvard.edu/>] – “The Astrophysics Data System (ADS) is a NASA-funded project which maintains four bibliographic databases containing more than 3.9 million records: Astronomy and Astrophysics, Instrumentation, Physics and Geophysics, and preprints in Astronomy. The main body of data in the ADS consists of bibliographic records, which are searchable through our *Abstract Service query forms*, and full-text scans of much of the astronomical literature which can be browsed through our *Browse interface*.”
- 🔗 **P.A.M.** [<http://units.sla.org/division/dpam/subjects/phys.html>] – general physics site that includes information on physicists, societies, and institutions. Also included are indexes to E-Journals and pathfinders to Internet resources.
- 🔗 **Physics 2000** [<http://www.colorado.edu/physics/2000/index.pl>] – interactive site maintained by the University of Colorado and dedicated to physics education.
- 🔗 **Physics central** [<http://www.physicscentral.com/>] – Sponsored by the American Physical Society, this sites intends to “communicate excitement and importance of physics to everyone,” provide updates on physics in the news, and “describe the latest research.” Students can ask physics question at **Physics central** as well as access many other web resources. Mostly for high school students or physics enthusiasts.
- 🔗 **Physics Internet Resources at Brown University** [<http://www.het.brown.edu/physics/index.html>] – located on Brown University's web site, *Physics Internet Resources* provides links to FTP sites, job news, and current research in the area of physics.
- 🔗 **Physlink** [<http://www.physlink.com/>] – one-stop shopping for physics and astronomy on the Internet. This site offers several different tools including a reference section, question/answer “department,” a search engine for physics and astronomy, guest articles, and daily news.
- 🔗 **PhysicsWeb** [<http://physicsweb.org/resources/>] – search engine and directory for physics information on the Internet. For each site listed in the directory, there is an extensive abstract so the user will know exactly what type of information can be found.