

# Resource Guide to Forensic Anthropology



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By Mai Qaraman  
Info673  
Spring 2006



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## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
Library of Congress Subject Headings and Classification Numbers .....	4
Dewey Decimal Classification Numbers .....	4
Abstracting and Indexing Services.....	5
Bibliographies .....	6
Case Studies .....	7
Dictionaries .....	8
Directories .....	9
Encyclopedias.....	9
Films / Videotape .....	10
Handbooks / Manuals.....	11
Journals & Newsletters.....	13
Monographs.....	15
Professional Organizations.....	16
Web Resources.....	17



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## **Introduction**

Forensic anthropology is a sub-discipline of physical anthropology. Methods and techniques in skeletal biology and osteology, such as those used to assess age, sex, stature, ancestry, and analyze trauma and disease, have been used by anthropologists to understand different populations living all over the world throughout history<sup>1</sup>. Forensic anthropology is a field that uses these methods and techniques to determine cause of death for modern human remains<sup>1</sup>. Forensic anthropology is what is known as an "applied" area of anthropology<sup>1</sup>. In other words anthropological methods and techniques are applied to cases of forensic or "legal" importance<sup>1</sup>.

This subject resource guide was created for undergraduate students that are interested in or are beginning study in the field of forensic anthropology. This guide is meant to provide an introduction to the field and a broad overview of the major resources available in the field.

<sup>1</sup>Frequently Asked Questions. **Forensic Anthropology**. *University of North Carolina at Wilmington*. Retrieved June 9, 2006 from <http://people.uncw.edu/albertm/forensic.htm>.



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### **Library of Congress Subject Headings and Classification Numbers**

Forensic Anthropology GN69.8  
May be subdivided geographically. E.g. Forensic anthropology--Argentina

### **Dewey Decimal Classification Numbers**

Forensic anthropology	614.1
	363.252
	599.9
	364.125
Forensic anthropology--Case studies	614.17
Forensic anthropology--Handbooks, manuals, etc.	614.17



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## **Abstracting and Indexing Services**

**Abstracts in Anthropology.** Westport, CT: Greenwood Periodicals.  
Indexing coverage from 1970 to present.

Indexes and abstracts journals in linguistics, cultural and physical anthropology, and archaeology.

**Anthropology Plus.** Mountain View, CA: RLG.  
Indexing coverage from 1890 to the present.  
Updated Monthly

Use Keyword: Forensic Anthropology

Provides worldwide indexing of journal articles, reports, commentaries, edited works, and obituaries in the fields of social, cultural, physical, biological, and linguistic anthropology, ethnology, archaeology, folklore, material culture, and interdisciplinary studies. Anthropology Plus combines Anthropological Literature from Harvard University and the Anthropological Index, Royal Anthropological Institute from the UK.

**AnthroSource.** Arlington, VA: American Anthropological Association.  
Access online through <http://www.anthrosource.net>

This database provides full text access to peer reviewed journals, newsletters and bulletins through a collaboration between the American Anthropological Association and the University of California Press.

**Applied Science and Technology Abstracts.** New York: H.W. Wilson Company.  
Access online through Dialog File 99  
Indexing coverage from October 1983 to the present; Abstracts from March 1993  
Updated Monthly

Use Keyword: Forensic Anthropology

This database covers a wide range of interdisciplinary fields through a broad array of science and technology journals.

**Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts.** London: Library Association.

Abstracts coverage from 1987 to the present.

Updated Bimonthly

Use Keyword: Forensic Anthropology

This database covers a wide range of interdisciplinary fields through a broad array of science and technology journals.

**Forensic science abstracts.** Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica.

Indexing coverage from 1975 to present.

Issued ten times per year with an annual cumulated index.

Use Keyword: Forensic Anthropology

This abstract specifically indexes scientific journals related to the fields of forensic science and medicine. This source is the major indexing tool for this field but is more appropriate for users with some expertise in forensic science.

**Social Sciences Abstracts.** New York: H.W. Wilson Company.

Access online through Dialog File 99

Indexing coverage from February to present; abstracts from March 1994 to present.

Updated Monthly

Use Keyword: Forensic Anthropology

This abstract provides comprehensive abstracting and indexing of more than 415 core English-language periodicals and includes a wide range of interdisciplinary fields covered in a broad array of social sciences journals. Types of materials indexed include feature articles, interviews, obituaries, biographies, and book reviews.



**Bibliographies**

Galloway, A., Woltanski, T.J. & Grant, W.M. (1993) Bibliography for the Application of Anthropology. Knoxville, TN: The Forensic Anthropology Center at the University of Tennessee.

“This bibliography provides a guide to forensic literature of interest to forensic anthropologists published through 1992. Areas covered include traditional skeletal biological research, expert witness, taphonomy, and trauma.”



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## **Case Studies**

Prorok, Count Byron Khun De. (2001). **Dead men do tell tales: a 1930's archeological expedition into Abyssinia**. Santa Barbara, CA: Narrative Press.

This is de Prorok's tale of his archeological expedition into Abyssinia (now called Ethiopia) in 1933-34.

Rathbun, T. A. & Buikstra, J. E. (eds.) (1984). **Human identification: case studies in forensic anthropology**. Springfield, IL: Thomas.

“This is a good book that fuses the methods of human identification with anecdotal experiences of the authors. An occasional chapter has an almost whimsical approach to the subject, which makes for enjoyable reading. I particularly enjoyed the chapter on the analysis of osseous material presumably from Jesse James and the melodrama in two acts concerning the identification of a notorious train robber, Elmer J. McCurdy.” – review provided by Reay, DT *Chief medical examiner, King County Medical Examiners Office, 325 9th Ave., Seattle, WA 98104 and associate professor of pathology, University of Washington.*

Steadman, D.W. (ed.) (2003). **Hard evidence: case studies in forensic anthropology**. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

“The book provides both introductory and advanced students with a strong sense of the types of cases in which forensic anthropologists become involved, as well as their professional and ethical responsibilities, the scientific rigor required, and the multidisciplinary nature of the science.” – review provided by *ForensicAnthro.com*. <http://www.forensicanthro.com/forensic-books/3>



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## **Dictionaries**

**Anthromorphemics.** 1997-. Online format. URL:  
<http://www.anth.ucsb.edu/glossary/index2.html>

Anthromorphemics is an online glossary that contains definitions for archeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology terms.

**Glossary of Archaeological/Anthropological Terms.** Online format. URL:  
[http://www.archaeolink.com/glossary\\_of\\_archaeology.htm](http://www.archaeolink.com/glossary_of_archaeology.htm)

This online glossary that contains definitions for archaeological and anthropological terms.

Barfield. T. (ed.) (1997). **The Dictionary of Anthropology.** Malden, MA: Blackwell.

The Dictionary of Anthropology is the standard reference guide to the discipline of social and cultural anthropology. It consists of substantial analytical articles focusing on key anthropological concepts, theories and methodologies.

Brenner, J. C. (2004). **Forensic Science: an illustrated dictionary.** Abingdon: CRC Press.

This dictionary incorporates words in the forensic areas of pathology, ontology, anthropology, entomology, computer crime, arson investigation, engineering and psychology.

Stevenson, J.C. (1991). **Dictionary of Concepts in Physical Anthropology.** Westport, CT: Greenwood Press Inc.

Consists of brief definitions, historical origins and developments, and sources of additional information for 75+ concepts in physical anthropology.





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## **Directories**

**AAA Guide.** Washington, DC: American Anthropological Society, 1989/1990-. Annual.

“For the past 39 years, the *AAA Guide* has been the premiere information source for the academic study of anthropology in the United States and Canada”

**American Academy of Forensic Sciences.** Membership directory. Colorado Springs: The Academy. 1987-. Annual.

Lists members of the academy alphabetically, by section and geographically by state. Officers, meetings and bylaws of the academy are included.

**Forensic services directory.** Princeton, NJ: National Forensic Center. 1980 -. Annual.

This national register of experts lists persons and organizations in the U.S. with expertise in a broad range of specialties beyond the fields traditionally associated with forensic science. The directory is arranged by subject with indexes by name and geographical location.



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## **Encyclopedias**

Birx, J. H. (2005). **Encyclopedia of anthropology.** London: Sage Publications, Ltd.

“A comprehensive, five-volume work with over 1,100 entries of original material written for this encyclopedia by educators and scholars in the natural and social sciences as well as philosophy. All articles are organized by keywords ranging from A to Z and an index. Entries cover the major areas of anthropology, as well as relevant topics in related disciplines, e.g., evolution, geology, paleontology, biology, sociology, psychology, philosophy, and theology.”

Gardner, R. et al. (2002). **Encyclopedia of Forensic Science: a compendium of detective fact and fiction**. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press Incorporated.

Covers the major scientific techniques and devices used by forensic scientists, as well as notable criminals and crimes.

McGraw-Hill. (1992). **McGraw-Hill encyclopedia of science and technology**. 7th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.

This 20-volume encyclopedia provides broad, comprehensive coverage of the sciences and technology. \ Coverage of forensic science topics is wide including death, autopsy, forensic anthropology, hair, forensic dentistry, natural and man-made fibers, forensic medicine, genetic mapping, chromatography, ballistics and ink. A detailed index volume is provided.

Spencer, F. (Ed.) (1997). **History of Physical Anthropology: An Encyclopedia**. New York: Garland Publishing, Inc.

This encyclopedia summarizes and organizes the basic knowledge, fundamental principles, and development of Physical anthropology in one easy to use source.



### **Films / Videotape**

Bass, W. M. (1986). **Forensic anthropology: techniques of human identification** [Videotape]. Knoxville, TN: The Center for Extended Learning, University of Tennessee.

Dr. Bill Bass, Forensic Anthropologist for the State of Tennessee, explains and illustrates accepted methods of identifying human remains with respect to age, sex, race and stature. Includes instructions for investigating a fire scene.

Films for the Humanities. (1999). **The Talking Skull** [Videotape]. Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences.

“A forensic anthropologist identifies a victim by using facial reconstruction on a skull discovered at a Boy Scout camp in Missouri.”

Rolfe, S. et al. (2003). **Body detectives** [DVD]. Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences.

“This clinical program travels to the world's first open-air crime lab with founder Bill Bass, of The University of Tennessee, for a close-up look at how cadavers decay. As proxies for murder victims, these decomposing bodies are studied in the name of science and the cause of justice. Factors and biological markers that help pinpoint time since death, including wind and weather, insects and carnivores, fire damage, soft tissue leachate, mold, and bacteria, are addressed. Three homicide cases that hinged on data and expertise gained at the Farm are presented, and Ph. D. students are filmed doing field work and body processing.”

Stossel, J. et al. (2004). **No bone unturned: bioarchaeology and forensic anthropology** [DVD]. New York: ABC News; [Distributed by] Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences.

"Spotlights the work of Doug Owsley, curator at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. Owsley and his biographer, Jeff Benedict, give examples of how he has used bioarchaeology for forensic anthropology to unravel mysteries ranging from identifying an exhumed Civil War cavalryman to determining the true cause of death of Branch Davidian leader David Koresh”



### **Handbooks / Manuals**

Burns, K. R., (1999). **Forensic anthropology training manual**. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

“This training manual is designed to serve three purposes: to be used as a general introduction to the field of forensic anthropology; as a framework for training; and as a practical reference tool. The manual examines physical evidence, death investigation specialists, forensic anthropology, human Osteology, human Odontology, laboratory analysis, field methods, professional results, and human rights applications. For those seeking basic knowledge necessary to collect and process skeletonized human remains.”

Federal Bureau of Investigation. (1975). **Handbook of forensic science**. Washington, DC: FBI Library.

This slim handbook is published periodically by the FBI covers legal and practical procedures for collecting, preserving, and handling different types of physical evidence.

Moore-Jansen, P.M., Ousley, S.D. & Jantz, R.L. (1994). **Data Collection Procedures for Forensic Skeletal Material**. Knoxville, TN: The Forensic Anthropology Center at the University of Tennessee.

“This manual provides standardized recording procedures and general recording formats for the documentation of human skeletal material in a forensic context.”

White, T. D. & Folkens, P. A. (2005). **The human bone manual**. Amsterdam; Boston: Elsevier Academic.

The handbook is intended for use in the field by forensic professionals. “It covers all the key information needed for identification purposes and is heavily illustrated.”

Saferstein, R. (Ed.). (1982). **Forensic science handbook**. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

This handbook is the best reference source for the field of criminalistics. Each chapter is an authoritative review of a particular aspect of the field written by noted experts. Chapters discuss examination techniques for physical evidence like blood, hair, fibers, paint, glass, soil, petroleum products, gunshot residue, explosives, alcohol and drugs, and questioned documents. Analytical methods such as high-performance liquid chromatography, microscopy applications, capillary gas chromatography and mass spectrometry are also covered.



## **Journals & Newsletters**

**American Journal of Physical Anthropology.** New York, NY: Wiley-Liss, Inc., 1918-. Monthly.

“The *American Journal of Physical Anthropology (AJPA)* is the official journal of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. The Journal is published monthly in three quarterly volumes. In addition, two supplements appear on an annual basis, the *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology*, which publishes major review articles, and the *Annual Meeting Issue*, containing the Scientific Program of the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists and abstracts of posters and podium presentations. *The Yearbook of Physical Anthropology* has its own editor, appointed by the Association, and is handled independently of the *AJPA*. As measured by impact factor, the *AJPA* is either first or among the top four journals listed in the anthropology category by the Social Science Citation Index. The reputation of the *AJPA* as the leading publication in physical anthropology is built on its 83-year record of publishing high quality scientific articles in a wide range of topics.”

**Annual Review of Anthropology.** Palo Alto, CA: Annual Reviews Inc., 1959-. Annual.

“Anthropology reviews synthesize and filter the vast amount of primary research to identify principal contributions in the field.”

**Anthropological Quarterly.** Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 1928-. Quarterly.

“Provides scholarly articles, review articles, book reviews and lists of recently published books in all areas of sociocultural anthropology. Its goal is the rapid dissemination of articles that blend precision with humanism, and scrupulous analysis with meticulous description.”

**Forensic Science Communications.** Washington, DC: U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1984-1997; 1999-. Semi-annually.

*Forensic Science Communications* is a peer-reviewed forensic science journal published as a means of communication between forensic scientists.

**Forensic Science Review.** Birmingham, AL: Central Police University Press, 1989 -. Semiannual.

“This important source is an international review journal which bridges the gap between research-oriented journals and reference books. It fills a vital niche in the literature since there is a paucity of reference material in this subject area. Lengthy articles with a technological focus are published. Articles address scientific techniques in use and provide ideas for future technological innovations.”

**Journal of Anthropological Research.** Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico, 1937-. Quarterly.

“Provides problem-oriented articles on recent research findings in ethnology, archaeology, biological anthropology, and linguistic anthropology.”

**Journal of forensic sciences.** Chicago, IL: American Academy of Forensic Sciences, 1956 -. Bimonthly.

“This is the premier journal in the field. The official journal of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), it is devoted to the publication of original research and reviews in the various branches of the forensic sciences. Sections of interest include: letters, main articles, technical notes, case reports and book reviews.”

**Medical Anthropology Quarterly.** Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1970-. Quarterly.

“Review articles and brief research reports on health, disease and illness from a biological, cultural, linguistic, and historical perspective.”



## **Monographs**

Byers, S.N. (2005). **Introduction to forensic anthropology: a textbook**. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon.

“Current, one-of-a-kind, comprehensive coverage of all the major topics in the field of forensic anthropology presented with accuracy, intensity, and clarity Methodology and protocol of forensic anthropology. Anyone who wishes to understand the methodology and procedures of forensic anthropology.”

Hunter, J., Roberts, C. & Martin. A. (1996). **Studies in crime: an introduction to forensic archaeology**. London: Batsford.

Hunter, J. & Cox, M. (2005). **Forensic archaeology: advances in theory and practice**. London; New York: Routledge.

Iscan & Kennedy. (eds.) (1989). **Reconstruction of Life from the Skeleton**. New York: Wiley-Liss.

“A detailed text, *Reconstruction of Life from the Skeleton* describes the techniques scientists currently use to reconstruct life patterns and individual identification from human skeletal remains and explains how to determine the “way” people lived, rather than merely list the history and evolution of population groups. Here is a fascinating profile of recent research activities in skeletal anthropology and paleodemography that also documents the progress achieved within the century.”

Rhine, S. (1998). **Bone voyage: a journey in forensic anthropology**. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.

“Drawing on cases he worked for the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator, the author explains step-by-step the techniques used to solve forensic mysteries. He also explores specific problems & tasks: working mass disasters; recovering bodies from the field; defleshing bones; examining charred & badly decomposed remains; testifying before juries; & others.”



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## **Professional Organizations**

American Board of Forensic Anthropology, Inc. <http://www.csuchico.edu/anth/ABFA/>

The American Board of Forensic Anthropology “was organized in 1977 to provide, in the interest of the public and the advancement of the science, a program of certification in forensic anthropology.”

American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS). <http://www.aafs.org/>

This professional association is “devoted to the improvement, administration, and achievement of justice through the application of science to the process of law.”

American Anthropological Association (AAA). <http://www.aaanet.org/>

The AAA formed "to promote the science of anthropology, to stimulate and coordinate the efforts of American anthropologists, to foster local and other societies devoted to anthropology, to serve as a bond among American anthropologists and anthropological organizations present and prospective, and to publish and encourage the publication of matter pertaining to anthropology"

American Association of Physical Anthropologists. <http://physanth.org/>

“The AAPA is the world's leading professional organization for physical anthropologists. Formed by 83 charter members in 1930, the AAPA now has an international membership of over 1,700. The Association's annual meetings draw more than a thousand scientists and students from all over the world.”





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## **Web Resources**

**Anthropology in the News.** Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University.  
Retrieved June 9, 2006  
from <http://www.tamu.edu/anthropology/news.html>

This website contains links to news stories on anthropology published on the web by ABC, CNN, USA Today, Washington Post, Nando, Archaeology, university press releases and other sources.

**Forensic Anthropology and Human Osteology Resources.** Retrieved June 9, 2006  
from <http://www.forensicanthro.com/>

This website contains a wealth of information such as education information, resources, forensic anthropology links, association information and publications in the field of forensic anthropology.

**Online Skeleton.** Retrieved June 9, 2006  
from <http://www-personal.une.edu.au/~pbrown3/oskel.html>

“The online skeleton is an introduction to the human skeleton in Adobe Acrobat pdf format.”

**OsteoInteractive.** Retrieved June 9, 2006  
from <http://medstat.med.utah.edu/kw/osteo/index2.html>

This website which is sponsored by the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library is a good introduction to forensic anthropology, human osteology (bones), paleopathology, and histology.

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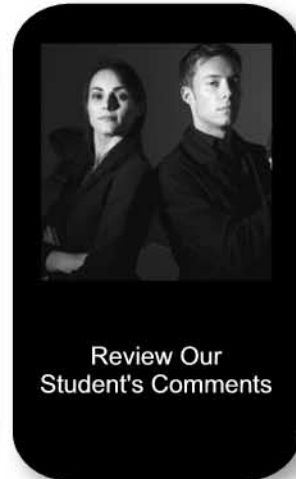
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