

**HIST 229: Recent U.S. History
Research Guide**

Major reference sources for U.S. History:

Dictionary of American History (10 vols.)	2003	R 973.03 Di 2, a, 3rd ed
Encyclopedia of American History (11 vols.)	2003	R 973 En 2, a
Encyclopedia of the United States in the Twentieth Century (4 vols.)	1996	R 973.03 En 2 U
Working Americans 1880-2005 (6 vols)	2005	R 305.5 De 7, w

Period-specific reference sources:

Great Events from History vol. 3. 1895-1955 vol. 4. 1956-1996	1997	R 970 Gr 3, e, rev. ed
The 1940's	2002	R 973.917 Si 2, n
The 1950's	2002	R 973.921 Yo 8, n
Encyclopedia of the Korean War (3 vols)	2000	R 951.9042 En 2, k
The 1960's	2004	R 973.923 Ri 3, n
Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War (3 vols.)	1998	R 959.703 En 2, v
The Sixties in America (3 vols.)	1999	R 973.92 Si 9, in
Cold War America 1946 to 1990	2003	R 973.92 Gr 3, c
The 1990's	2002	R 973.929 Ox 6, n
Encyclopedia of the Persian Gulf War	1995	R 956.70442 Gr 6, e

Topic-specific reference sources:

Presidential Elections 1789-2004	2005	R 324.973 Pr 3, el 1789-2004
Encyclopedia of American Social Movements (4 vols.)	2004	R 303.484 En 2, a
Working Americans, 1880-2005 (6 vols.)	2000- 2005	R 305.5 De 7, w
The Greenwood Guide to American Popular Culture (4 vols.)	2002	R 306.0973 Gr 33, g
The Encyclopedia of American Political History	2001	R 320.973 En 23, a
Historic U.S. Court Cases: An Encyclopedia	2001	R 347.73 Hi7, u 2nd ed.
Encyclopedia of the American Presidency	1994	R 352.230973 En 2, a

Topic-specific reference sources continued:

Encyclopedia of African American Culture and History (6 vols.)	2006	R 973.0496 En 2, a
The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States (4 vols.)	2005	R 973.0468 Ox 3, e
A History of Women in the United States (4 vols.)	2004	305.40973 Hi 7, w
Civil Rights in the United States (2 vols.)	2000	R 323.0973 Ci 8, r
The Encyclopedia of Urban America (2 vols.)	1998	R 307.760973 en 2, u

Finding journal articles

Online Indexes and Databases:

- **America: History & Life:** Offers abstracts and citations for articles appearing in over 2,000 journals published worldwide in history, related humanities, and the social sciences.
- **JSTOR:** JSTOR is a multi-disciplinary archive of articles from almost 500 major academic journals, dating as far back as the 1870s. Be aware that the articles in JSTOR will be at least two years old (typically 3-5 years old). You'll want to search other sources for more recent scholarship.
- **Academic Search Premier (EBSCO):** A multi-disciplinary database containing more than 4,700 publications (of which 3,600 are peer-reviewed). This is a very good "all purpose" database that offers approximately 85% of its content in full text.
- **FirstSearch:** Contains information about books, journal articles, films, computer software and other types of material in over 50 separate databases.

Print Indexes: (especially useful when searching for historic publications)

- **Humanities Index**
- **Social Sciences Index**

Finding a scholarly non-fiction book

Use the Geisler Library catalog or First Search/WorldCat (for Interlibrary Loan). Evaluate the books you find using questions such as:

- Who wrote it? What information can you find about the author?
- Who published it? Can you determine whether this is a "major" publisher? A university press? Can you locate the publisher's website for more info?
- What do reviewers say? Can you locate book reviews that support the quality of the information and scholarship?

Finding book reviews

Many of the same indexes and databases you'll use to search for journal articles can be great sources for reviews as well.

In **Academic Search Premier** (EBSCO) – select “Book Review” from the drop down menu of Document Types.

In **America: History & Life** – use the check box to limit to “Book Reviews”

In **MLA International Bibliography** via Literature Resource Center – using the MLA Advanced Search, enter “book review” on one line and select Subject from the drop down menu on the right.

In **JSTOR** – use the check box to limit to “Review”.

Four ideas for finding primary source materials

1. Search the library catalog by **Subject** using headings such as “personal narratives” or “sources” or “correspondence”. This can work well if you are studying an individual person.
2. Refer to the library's **Research Guides by Subject** for History for ideas and links to some digital archives and collections such as The Library of Congress's **American Memory Historical Collections** or The University of North Carolina's **Documenting the American South**.
3. Consider government sources such as **The Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States** (available in the library), Congressional Quarterly's **Historic Documents** series (available in the library), legislation, or Supreme Court decisions.
4. Read **newspapers** such as *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* (available on microfilm) and current events **magazines** like *Life* or *Newsweek* from the time period or date you're studying. To search their contents, use the print indexes **The Readers Guide to Periodical Literature, The New York Times Index, and The Wall Street Journal Index**.

Websites

Refer to the library's **Research Guides by Subject** for History as a starting point.
(This page is always undergoing revision, so if you find any useful, scholarly sites that would be good to include, please let Beth know! (x 5345 or mcmahone@central.edu)

For further assistance:

Beth McMahon x 5345
mcmahone@central.edu

Reference Desk x 5171
M-R 10:00am - 5:00pm and 7:00pm - 10:00pm
Sunday 7:00pm - 10:00pm