

Finding What You Need ... About History

History can be a fascinating area of study. The subject is broad and varied; careful search strategy will help you focus your search.



REFERENCE WORKS

Use reference sources;

- To do a preliminary review of your topic
- To narrow and overly broad topic
- To identify concepts that you come across during research. Examples;

R 973.08 Ann Annals of America

Essays, speeches, songs and poems published during important periods of American history.

R 973.0469 Afr African-American Almanac

R 973.0495 Asi Asian-American Almanac

R 973.0468 His Hispanic-American Almanac

These books will help you understand the history and experiences of minority groups in American culture.

R 973 Cen Battles and Leaders of the Civil War

R 930 Cam Cambridge Ancient History

R 909 Chr Chronology of World History

This multivolume source provides timelines of important events in political, artistic, scientific and social history. Cassell's Chronology of World Hiswtory (R 909 Wil) is a one volume timeline.

R 973.03 Enc Encyclopedia of American History

R 031 Enc Encyclopedia Americana

This source provides a good basic introduction to historical events and important historical figures.

R 903 Encyclopedia of World History

R 973.0202 Car Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates

R 910.3 Web Merriam Webster's Geographical Dictionary

This will help you locate cities, regions and geographical features.

Areas of history have reference tools that you can use to start your research. Related sources that will help you understand historical studies are maps, atlases and gazetteers (compilations of geographical information). Most reference works are located in the 900 area of the reference section.

BOOKS

Use the on-line catalog to find books about history.

- Start by looking for the country you are studying ('France and history.')
- This may retrieve a lot of information. Try the 'browse' option, this lets you see how your subject is divided into smaller categories.
- From here you can spot topics that interest you. 'Civil War personal narratives,' for example, is part of the larger category of books about the Civil War.
- Look for books about a particular period, such as the American Revolution or the Colonial period ('United States and Revolution'; 'United States and Colonial period').
- Look for books about a historical event, such as the Reign of Terror.
- Add search terms to make your search as specific as possible.
- Primary sources such as oral histories, journals and documents help your understanding of history; try 'United States history sources,' or add words like 'personal narratives,' 'oral history' or 'diary' to your search.
- Books about historical figures provide more than biographical information; they also discuss the period in which the person lived and analyze his or her impact on the events of the times.

Most books about history are located in the 900 area of the library.

THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION (901 Dur)

Will Durant and Ariel Durant wrote this work between 1935 and 1975 and it continues to be a major historical resource. It provides a discussion of history and the social, moral and cultural elements of the times. It is a good place to find

an introduction to history. One set is in reference and another is in circulation.

LOCAL HISTORY

Your best bet for county history is the Sussex County Library.

PERIODICAL INDEXES AND ONLINE INFORMATION

Use the following indexes to locate articles in magazines and newspapers.

O – online P - Print

Academic Search Premier (O)

Limit your search to newspapers for current events or to peer reviewed journals for scholarly and research articles.

Academic Universe (O)

You can access international and regional newspapers and journals to get a broader picture of current events and history.

Credo (O)

This source provides reference tools such as encyclopedias and dictionaries, which help when doing historical research.

Facts on File (O)

This online resource provides full-text essays on historical topics, biographical information, documents and speeches. You can get multicultural studies and information on American government. There is also a world atlas, which gives you historical, economic and government information on the world's countries. Facts on File includes some primary source material.

Historical New York Times (O)

Find articles from the New York Times as far back as 1851. This is a great way to get a sense of how history happened.

Humanities Index (P)

This index provides citations to articles concerned with scholarly study in the humanities, including history.

JSTOR (O) - on-campus use only

This database provides scholarly and research journals and is a good resource for the humanities.

INTERNET

You can find material on the 'Net that will help fill out and update your research. The Internet is also a source of photographs, oral histories and documents. Examples;

1968: The Whole World was Watching –
www.stg.brown.edu/projects/1968/

AMDOCS: Documents for the Study of American History –
www.vlib.us/amdocs

American Civil War Homepage – <http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/>

BUBL Link World History – bubl.ac.uk/ (go to 'Geography and History.)

Chronology of US Historical Documents –
www.law.ou.edu/hist

Civil War Soldiers and Sailor System – www.itd.nps.gov/cwss

Documenting the American South – docsouth.unc.edu/

Electronic New Jersey – www2.scc.rutgers.edu/njh/

Eurodocs: Primary Historical Documents from Western Europe –
eurodocs.lib.byu.edu

Harvard University Open Collection Program—<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/>

History WWW-VL – vlib.iue.it/history/

Library of Congress Federal Research Division Country Studies –
lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/

Library of Congress Homepage (American Memory Project) –
memory.loc.gov

Making of America: Primary Sources in American History –
www.hti.umich.edu/m/moagrp

MEMDB (Medieval and Early Modern Databank) –
www2.scc.rutgers.edu/memdb

Military Oral History Database (VMI) —www1.vmi.edu/archivecoldwar/

New Jersey and the Civil War –
www.civilwararchive.com/unionnj.htm

New Jersey Digital Highway – www.njdigitalhighway.org

New Jersey Historical Commission – www.state.nj.us/state/divisions/historical/

New Jersey Women's History –
scc.rutgers.edu/njwomenshistory/

Oral History Online –historymatters.gmu.edu/mse/oral/online.html

Patterns of Global Terrorism – www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/pgtrpt

Rutgers New Brunswick History Department: Oral History Archives of
WWII, Korea, Vietnam War and Cold War –
oralhistory.rutgers.edu

Sixties Project – www2.iath.virginia.edu/sixties/HTML_docs/Sixties.html

Sussex County Historical Society – www.sussexcountyhistory.org

Terrorism (Council on Foreign Relations) – www.cfr.org/issue/135/

Voice of the Shuttle – vos.ucsb.edu

Please see the reference librarian if you need help.

Angela Camack—6/09