



American History

A Guide to Selected Resources

See Also ['Women In American Society'](#)

Reference & Fact Finding

Books & eBooks

Journals, Magazines, & Newspapers

A Great Website!

Reference & Fact Finding

[Bibliographies, Guides and Handbooks](#) || [Encyclopedias](#)
[Biography/Genealogy](#) || [Maps/Historical Atlases](#) || [Primary Sources](#)

Bibliographies and General Finding Aids

[GENERAL](#) || [REGIONAL](#) || [SUBJECT SPECIFIC](#)

GENERAL

American Historical Association's Guide to Historical Literature [REF D 20 .A55 1995]

Sections 42-44 treat American history. Each chapter includes a brief introductory essay summarizing the history and development of that area of historical inquiry. Author and subject indexes and a list of journals.

Harvard Guide to American History [E 174 .F77 1974]

Old but still very useful, this selective guide lists books and articles published prior to 1970. Volume I has a topical arrangement and Volume II is chronological. There is also a subject index.

Historical Statistics of the United States: earliest times to the present [REF HA 202 .H57 2006]

Volumes are arranged by broad topics: *Population Work and Welfare, Economic Structure and Performance, Economic Sectors, and Governance and International Relations.*

[Catalog of United States Government Publications \(GCP\)](#)

Along with a vast amount of current data and analysis, many excellent historical treatises on a wide variety of subjects are available. MOCAT is an online catalog of government publications released since January 1994. Materials can be obtained via interlibrary loan or direct borrowing.

Statistical Portrait of the United States: Social Conditions and Trends [REF HA 214 .S73 2002]

Chapters cover population; living arrangements; education; health; work; income, poverty, and wealth; housing; crimes and criminal justice; leisure, volunteerism, and religion; voting; the environment; and government.

REGIONAL

Encyclopedia of New England [REF F 4 .E53 2005]

22 thematic sections, ranging from agriculture to tourism, each with an introduction by a leading specialist in the field; includes 1,300 alphabetically arranged entries examining significant people, places, events, ideas, and artifacts.

Connecticut: A Bibliography of Its History [F 94 .C66 1986]

Massachusetts: A Bibliography of Its History [F 64 .C73]

Rhode Island: A Bibliography of Its History [F 79 .R48 1983]

Entries for articles in "national and regional periodicals, foreign language publications, edited series of government publications, collected biography, plus gazetteers, diaries, and travel accounts." Arranged by town and county; there are also subject and name indexes for each.

A Guide to the History of Massachusetts [F 64 .G84 1988]

Essays on Massachusetts history and special topics, including urban Massachusetts, women in Massachusetts, and oral history. Also a section describing major state archives and repositories of historical material.

SUBJECT SPECIFIC

Women in American History, A Bibliography 1979. [HQ 1410 .H37]

Abstracts of articles published between 1963 and 1976 dealing with women in the United States or Canada.

Encyclopedias

Dictionary of American History. 1976. [REF E 174 .D52 1976]

Covers political, economic, and cultural aspects of American history. Short bibliographies for each entry.

Encyclopedia of American Cultural & Intellectual History. 2001. [REF E 169.1 .E624 2001]

The first eight sections are chronological, "surveying major periods of American history from the arrival of Europeans to the beginning of the twenty-first century. Section 9 treats various groups defined by gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual preference. Section 10 looks at specific cities and regions, sections 12 through 14 examine political, economic, and social orders, section 15 focuses on knowledge management, section 16 looks at the media, and the last section surveys major schools of thought relative to cultural and intellectual history.

Encyclopedia of American Economic History. 1999. [REF HC 103 .E52]

Articles on the history of the American economy.

Encyclopedia of American Foreign Policy [JX 1407 .E53]

Some ninety-five essays exploring "concepts, themes, large ideas, theories, and distinctive policies in the history of American foreign policy are featured. Brief bibliographies, plus a biographical dictionary are included. There is an extensive name and subject index.

Encyclopedia of American Social History [HN 57 .E58 1993]

Chapters on the social history of various periods, followed by numerous articles on specific topics including: regional and ethnic subcultures, everyday life and work, popular culture and recreation, and social protest and problems. Bibliographies for each entry.

Encyclopedia of the Korean War: A Political, Social, and Military History [DS 918 .E53 2000]

Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies [E 188 .E53 1993]

Covers not only British colonies but those controlled by other nations, particularly France, the Netherlands, and Spain. Major topics include settlements, government, economies, labor systems, race, war/diplomacy, social customs, technology, the arts, education, religion, and independence.

Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War [DS 557.7 .E53 1996]

Includes essays on "the land and the peoples of Vietnam, the French colonial era, the background of American military intervention, the military history of the war, its impact on both the Vietnamese and American peoples, the peacemaking efforts, the role of American media, the cultural impact of the war in the United States, and a treatment of the war's ongoing effects in the U.S." and shorter topical articles dealing with the people and events of the war.

Handbook of American Women's History [REF HQ 1410 .H36 2000]

Articles, with bibliographies, on concepts, people, events, and organizations relating to women's history. A subject index is provided.

The Negro Almanac: A Reference Work on the African American [REF E 185 .N385 1989]

Historical narratives, biographical sketches, and statistical tables.

Biography and Genealogy

[Biography in Context](#)

Full-text database of biographical information on more than 200,000 people from throughout history, around the world, and across all disciplines and subject areas. Bibliographies available for many entries. Now includes *Complete Marquis Who's Who*

[Cyndi's List of Genealogical Sites on the Web](#)

Developed and maintained by Cyndi Howells, author of "Netting Your Ancestors: Genealogical Research on the Internet," this is a very impressive, comprehensive collection of some 26,000 links in over 70 alphabetically-arranged categories.

[FamilySearch](#) (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints)

Considered to be the largest genealogical database in the world.

Dictionary of American Biography [REF E 176 .D56]

Biographies, with bibliographies, for individuals who died prior to 1970.

Liberty's Women [REF HQ 1412 .L52]

Biographies of 1035 American women. Includes an index by occupation or career.

[Biography.com](#)

More than 25,000 biographies with links.

Maps and Historical Atlases

[Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection](#)

Links to all kinds of maps covering every area of the world. See especially the link to "[Historical Maps](#)" (Historical Maps of United States are grouped chronologically.) See also "[Historical Maps on Other Web Sites](#)" (links grouped by geographical area).

[Atlappedia Online](#)

Full color physical and political maps as well as key facts and statistics on countries of the world. The "[Countries A to Z](#)" section provides facts, figures and statistical data on geography, climate, people, religion, language, history, economy and more for individual countries. The "[World Maps](#)" section provides full color maps for regions of the world.

Primary Sources

A NOTE ABOUT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES: The *Historian's Handbook* defines a primary source as one that "gives the words of the witnesses or the first recorders of an event," as compared to secondary sources, which are descriptions of events based on primary sources (175). Published material is most often considered primary if it is true to the original (for example, a collection of letters), or if the publication occurs almost concurrently with the reported event (for example, a newspaper account).

[Library of Congress Digital Collections](#)

Primary materials relating to US history and culture. Included are texts, photos, motion pictures and audio materials.

[National Archives and Records Administration](#)

Links to presidential libraries and other federal records centers are provided here.

Books and Articles

WorldCat Discovery is a single search box on the Library's homepage that searches:

- All library-owned print books, including textbooks and reserves
- Millions of ebooks through eBook Central, Google Books, and the Hathi Trust Digital Library
- Journal articles, conference papers and newspaper articles from most of the Library's databases
 - Some databases are better suited to being searched directly (see the next section)
- And books and articles outside of our library by selecting *Libraries Worldwide*
 - Request items from other libraries using the "Request Items" button

Simply enter your terms into the single search box on the Library home page, and click Search. Use the resulting options (print book or article; date range; author, etc.) on the left of the results page to refine your search.

ONE SEARCH TO FIND THEM ALL

Browse the Call Numbers of print books (find and look around the below locations in the book shelves):

- **E General History of U.S.**
- **F 1-975 Local History, U.S.**
- **PS American Literature**
- **M - N Music and Art**
- **HN - HT Social History, Social Groups, Sociology**
- **JK Political Science - United States**

Specific Subject Heading Searching: For example: Enter "su:(Temperance Societies)" in WorldCat Discovery

United States History Civil War 1861 to 1865

United States History 20th Century

Depression 1929 United States

United State Social Condition 1960 to 1980

Temperance Societies

American Loyalists

Jefferson, Thomas Bibliography

Vietnamese Conflict Protest Movement United States

United States History Bibliography

United States History Civil War Personal Narratives

Other Article Databases

WorldCat Discovery searches MOST of the library databases. Those listed here are either NOT available via WorldCat Discovery or contain content that must be found or are better found directly in the relevant database. Each database below will include a note indicating not found (NF) or better found (BF).

If you cannot access the full text of an article in these databases, place an [Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery](#) request.

U.S. History in Context (BF)

Information on people, events and topics in U.S. history. Includes articles from reference works, academic journals and magazines, primary source documents, images, video and audio.

A Great Website!

Evaluating Web Sites

American History and American Studies Research Guide

Yale Library's index of Web sites on American Studies and History; also lists relevant paper sources in Yale's library.

<https://hub.nichols.edu/documents/americanhistory.pdf>

Conant Library, Nichols College

Please send comments to Circulation@nichols.edu

Last Updated: 03/01/2022