

American History: Library Resources

Finding Books:

Select Reference Sources:

Datapedia of the United States : American history in numbers	HA 202 K87 2004
Dictionary of American history	E 174 D52 2003
Encyclopedia of battles in North America	E 46.5 P87 2000
Encyclopedia of the American Civil War	E 468 E53 2000
The American Heritage encyclopedia of American history	E 174 A535 1998
Reader's guide to American history	E 178 R3 1997
Encyclopedia of American social history	HN 57 E58 1993

Primary Sources

Diaries, Letters, Memoirs, Sources or Documents, etc.

Browse by Call Number:

General American History	E 11
General United States History	E 151
Political History	E 183
Revolution	E 201
Civil War	E 456
Twentieth Century United States	E 740

In the Library online catalog try a word or phrase search:

- **American and Memoirs** (usually finds a single person's work)
- **American and Narratives** (can find single person's work or a collection of personal accounts).

Secondary Sources

Analyses of the events, commentaries, etc.

In the library online catalog, the main subject heading is:

History: America and United States: a wide variety of sub-headings are also found under this subject

Topical: Reconstruction, Slavery Question, Louisiana Purchase, Missouri compromise, Indians of North America, War with Mexico, Un-American Activities, etc...

Format: Bibliography, Book Reviews, Collections, Congresses, Diaries, Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Maps, Periodicals, Pictorial Works, Poetry

Finding Articles:

To find journal articles, follow this 3 step process:

1. Click on Databases from the Grossmont Library homepage (www.grossmont.edu/library) On this screen you will see a list of subjects. Scroll down to History and click on that link. This will bring up a list of appropriate databases for American History. Some of these sources are reference sources. For Articles you should select World History Collection.

(Note: Grossmont College subscribes to these databases, so if you are using them from home, you will be required to type in your campus username and password, which is the one you use to register for classes.)

Type your topic using the most appropriate keywords for your topic. You may also try:

- "and", "or", "not" (i.e.: Boolean operators) to broaden or narrow your search
- truncation (*) for different word endings (e.g.: plurals)

2. Some articles in the database are full text, meaning the entire article is there in the database for you to print, email or download. Sometimes the database only provides a citation to the article plus an abstract or summary; it does not give you the full article. You may check our Periodicals List available from the Library Homepage to see if we own the journal and the volume/date needed. You must then come to the library to get the journal or magazine off the shelf.

3. If the article is not available full text in the database or in print in the library, you can order the article via our Interlibrary loan service by filling out an online form at <http://www.gcccd.net/bn1/ill.htm>. Keep in mind, it could take a few weeks to get the article from another library.

Finding Reliable Websites:

Evaluate

- Evaluating Web Pages: Techniques to Apply & Questions to Ask
 - <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>
- Thinking Critically about World Wide Web Resources
 - <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/help/critical/index.htm>
- Hoax? Scholarly Research? Personal Opinion? You Decide!
 - <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/help/hoax/index.htm>

Select Online Resources for the Study of American History

- Library of Congress American Memory: <http://memory.loc.gov/>
- History Matters: <http://www.historymatters.gmu.edu/>
- America's Library: <http://www.americaslibrary.gov/>
- American Journeys: <http://www.americanjourneys.org/>
- PBS History: <http://www.pbs.org/history/>