

HIS 101/102 – American History

SEARCHING FUNDAMENTALS

With Keyword Searching, you determine your search terms; you have greater flexibility but you get broader results. You must try multiple searches using different spellings and synonyms in order to match all the variations authors could use. Alternatively, Subject Searching is very organized and uses only pre-determined terms; you find your Subject Heading and you search for it. You must use the term chosen by the person who has cataloged the book or article.

1. Perform a keyword search using important terms that define your topic.
2. Find a good result and look at its Subject Heading.
3. Perform a subject search using the Subject Heading you find.

FINDING MATERIAL

You should divide your research into two stages:

Stage 1: Use the library databases to identify a source, e.g., a journal article

Stage 2: Use various resources to obtain the source, including:

360Link / List of E-journals – a list of magazines & journals available via our databases

List of Print Journals – a list of our print serials; the list is available in print & online

Librarians – always feel free to ask a librarian to help you locate material

Interlibrary Loan – fill out an online ILL form to obtain material we do not own

NEW – Ask Us 24/7 – virtual reference available 24/7

DATABASES

Academic Search Premier – full-text articles from over 3,600 peer-reviewed journals

America: History & Life - indexes articles on the history and culture of the United States and Canada from prehistory to the present

JSTOR - a complete full-text archive of core scholarly journals starting with first issues as far back as the nineteenth century

SUNYIT Catalog & WorldCat – information on books the library owns or can borrow

ProQuest – full-text articles from magazines, newspapers and journals

All databases are accessible from off-campus. You will need your SITNet ID and password.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN (ILL)

Our library shares its materials with other libraries and those other libraries share their materials with us; this sharing is called interlibrary loan. If you want a book or journal article which we do not own then fill out an online ILL form and we will get the material for you.

DO NOT LIMIT YOURSELF TO ONLY FULL-TEXT ARTICLES IN DATABASES. USE THE LIBRARY'S PRINT JOURNALS AND MAKE FREE ILL REQUESTS.

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SUBJECT DIRECTORIES

Librarian's Index to the Internet – trusted sites for research

<http://www.lii.org>

Internet Public Library – lists of information on many topics from the School of Information at the University of Michigan

<http://www.ipl.org>

Google Directory – Choose your topic by selecting subject area you need to research

<http://directory.google.com>

WWW Virtual Library:History:United States

<http://vlib.iue.it/history/USA>

EVALUATING WEB SITES

Always evaluate your web results for their:

accuracy – does the site misstate, misrepresent or exaggerate facts? are there errors?

authority – who created the site and what are their affiliations and credentials?

bias – does the site offer a point of view or opinion?

coverage – how much information is there?

currency – when was the site last updated?

If you are uncertain about any of these criteria, look elsewhere for information.

.aero | .biz | .com | .coop | .edu | .gov | .info | .int | .mil | .museum | .name | .net | .org | .pro

WEB SITES

Best History Web Sites

<http://www.besthistorysites.net>

History Matters, an annotated guide to most useful guides to U.S. History

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/browse/wwwhistory>

Federal Resources for Educational Excellence at

<http://free.ed.gov>

Outline of U.S. History

<http://www.america.gov/publications/books/history-outline.html>

Digital History – using new technologies to enhance teaching and research

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu>

DOCUMENTING YOUR WORK

The Chicago Manual of Style is in Ready Reference Z253.U69 2003.