

Research Guide

HISTORY – US History

George Mason University Libraries

This Guide lists some of the basic reference resources for United States History available to researchers at the Fenwick Library. A related guide, “**History – World History**,” may also contain information of interest.

The Guide is divided into the following – sometimes overlapping – categories:

US History (General)

Special Topics

Military
Political & International
Racial & Ethnic
Social & Economic

Specific Periods

Seventeenth & Eighteenth Centuries
Nineteenth Century
Twentieth Century

Specific Geographical Areas

The South

Library of Congress

Call Number Ranges
Subject Headings

*Note that sources in US History (General) will probably also cover subjects in the other categories (e.g., *America: History and Life* indexes North American history – regardless of specific time period or geographic area).*

All items are in the Fenwick Reference Department unless otherwise noted. Within particular categories titles are usually listed in call number order. Call numbers for specific works will indicate general classification ranges where related materials may be found.

US HISTORY (General)

This category is subdivided into the following types of resources:

guides to research & resources	indexes/abstracts and bibliographies
encyclopedias, dictionaries, and handbooks	historical atlases & geographical information
large-scale histories	statistical compilations
biographical information	large documentary collections

For general sources in world history, including that of the United States, see the research Guide “**History – World**.”

Guides to Research & Resources (General)

U.S. History Highway: A Guide to Internet Resources

E175.88 .T75 2002

United States History: A Multicultural, Interdisciplinary Guide to Information Sources

E178 .P45 2003

Center for History and New Media [George Mason University]

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/>

H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online [Michigan State University]

<http://www.h-net.org/>

Sponsors over 100 free electronic, interactive newsletters (“lists”), dealing with teaching and research in the arts, humanities, and social sciences.

Humbul Humanities Hub [a collaboration of over sixty British educational and research organizations]

<http://www.humbul.ac.uk/>

Use the link at “American Studies.”

Voice of the Shuttle: History Page [Alan Liu, professor, University of California, Santa Barbara]

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse-netscape.asp?id=2713>

Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, and Handbooks (General)

American Facts and Dates

E174.5 .C3 1993 (Desk)

Encyclopedia USA: The Encyclopedia of the United States of America Past & Present

E156 .E52 1983 [continuing]

Encyclopedia of American Studies

E169.1 .E625 2001

Dictionary of American History

E174 .D52 2003

Large-Scale Histories (General)

Oxford History of the United States

E173 .O94 vol. <no.> [vols. in Stacks at JCL and/or Fenwick; some vols. are also e-books]

v. 2 The Glorious Cause: The American Revolution, 1763-1789 (1982)

v. 6 Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era (1988)

v. 9 Freedom from Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945 (1999)

v. 10 Grand Expectations: The United States, 1945-1974 (1996)

Magill's History of North America

E18 .M2 1988

Biographical Information (General)

American National Biography [ANB]

CT213 .A68 1999 (Biography Area)

American Biographical Index

CT211 .A452 1993

Index to a large microform set, “American Biographical Archive,” held (among other places) at Georgetown and the Library of Congress.

Dictionary of American Biography [DAB]

E176 .D5/6... [1928-58; 1973-88] (Biography Area)

National Cyclopedia of American Biography

E176 .N3 [1893-1926?; incomplete] (Biography Area)

African American Biographical Database

Available electronically via the Library’s homepage under “Databases.”

Covers the period 1790 to 1950.

Indexes/Abstracts and Bibliographies (General)

America: History and Life

Available electronically via the Library’s homepage under “Databases.”

Indexes and abstracts scholarly literature (journal articles, book and media reviews, dissertations, articles in edited collections) on the history of the United States and Canada from prehistory to the present.

Writings on American History

E156 .W7 [1902 – 1962/73] (Index Area)

Cumulative index covers 1902-1940; earlier work covered by *Literature of American History* Z1236 .L5 [1902].

Harvard Guide to American History

E173 .F7 H3 1974

Reader's Guide to American History

E178 .R43 1997 (JCL Reference)

***Reviews in American History* (1983–)**

Available electronically via the Library's homepage under "E-Journal Finder."

Also available in paper in Fenwick Periodicals; older issues at the Arlington Campus Library

Book reviews as well as retrospective essays on the work of major historians covering all areas of American history.

Electronic Full-Text Journals

Collections of electronic full-text journals (like History Cooperative, JSTOR, Project Muse, Cambridge Online Journals, and Oxford University Press Journals) can be very helpful in identifying relevant articles. These collections usually provide the capability both of browsing single issues and of searching journals individually, collectively, or in groups. Access to individual journals – and the most complete and current information on the Library's holdings – can be found at the Library's homepage <<http://library.gmu.edu/>> under "E-Journal Finder." (The University Libraries may also have paper subscriptions to some of these titles.) Note, however, that the appearance of the most recent issue of some electronic titles may lag behind that of their print counterparts.

Collections of electronic full-text journals are limited both in the number of titles represented and in the time coverage for those journals. *Indexes* which give only bibliographic citations (or abstracts) -- rather than full-text -- cover more journal titles for greater periods of time and should also be searched.

Historical Atlases & Geographical Information (General)

Omni Gazetteer of the United States of America

E154 .O45 1990

Atlas of American History

G1201 .S1 A8 1984

Historical Atlas of the United States

G1201 .S1 H5 2003

Statistical Compilations (General)

Historical Statistics of the United States ... To 1970

HA202 .B87 (Desk)

Historical Statistics of the United States on CD-ROM: Colonial Times to 1970

HA202 .B87 1997 (CD-ROM Area); also at the Prince William Campus

Historical Statistics...Census, 1790-1990

HA214 .D63 1993

Large Documentary Collections (General)

Annals of America (~1600–1986)

E173 .A793

Library of American Civilization [LAC]

Fenwick Periodicals - Microfiche/Microfilm

Large “ultrafiche” set covers America from the “beginnings” to around 1914; includes pamphlets, periodicals, public and private documents, biographies, autobiographies, non-fiction, fiction, poetry, miscellaneous collections, rare books, maps, and some foreign materials related to the U.S.; *Microbook Library of American Civilization* (Z1236 .L42 M5 Reference and Fenwick Periodicals) provides author, title, and subject indexes to the set; individual items are cataloged in the George Washington University online catalog.

American Memory (Library of Congress)

<http://memory.loc.gov/>

Digitized materials from the historical collections of the Library of Congress.

Full-Text Newspapers

Available electronically via the Library’s homepage under “Databases.”

Accessible Archives (including)

African American Newspapers: The 19th Century

Civil War: A Newspaper Perspective, November 1860 - April 1865

Pennsylvania Gazette, 1728-1800

Pennsylvania Newspaper Record: Delaware County, 1819-1870

HarpWeek [Harper's Weekly] (1857-1912)

Historical Newspapers (Chadwyck-Healey)

Palmer's [London Times] *Full Text Online, 1785-1870*

ProQuest Historical Newspapers

New York Times (1851 -)

Wall Street Journal (1889-)

Washington Post (1877-)

SPECIAL TOPICS

Military

Reference Guide to United States Military History [1815 – 1990]

E181 .R34 1991 (5 vols.)

West Point Atlas of American Wars (1689-1918)

G1201 .S1 U5 [1997]

Dictionary of American Military Biography

U52 .D53 1984 (3 vols.)

Political & International

Encyclopedia of American Political History

E183 .E5 1984

Chronological History of U.S. Foreign Relations

E183.7 .B745 2003

Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations

E183.7 .C24 1993 (Fenwick Stacks; Johnson Center Stacks)

Encyclopedia of American Foreign Policy

E183.7 .E52 2002

Encyclopedia of US Foreign Relations

E183.7 .E53 1997

American Foreign Relations since 1600: A Guide to the Literature

E183.7 .G84 2003

Encyclopedia of American Foreign Policy: Studies of the Principal Movements and Ideas

JX1407 .E53 [1978]

Social & Economic

Encyclopedia of the Great Depression

E806 .E63 2004

Gale Encyclopedia of U.S. Economic History

HC102 .G35 1999

Encyclopedia of American Business History and Biography

Airline Industry TL509 .E54 1992

Banking and Finance to 1913 HG2461 .B33 1990 (Law Library - 3rd Floor)

Banking and Finance, 1913-1989 HG2481 .B325 1990

Encyclopedia of American Social History

HN57 .E58 1993

Dictionary of American Immigration History

JV6450 .D3 1990

Racial & Ethnic

Encyclopedia of Multiculturalism

E184 .A1 E58 1994

Asian American Encyclopedia

E184 .O6 A827 1995

Latino Encyclopedia

E184 .S75 L357 1996

Dictionary of Afro-American Slavery

E441 .D53 1988

Encyclopedia of African American Culture and History

E185 .E54 1996

Historical Statistics of Black America

E185 .H543 1995

Reference Library of Black America

E185 .R435 1994

SPECIFIC PERIODS

Seventeenth & Eighteenth Centuries

Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies

E45 .E53 1993

American Revolution 1775 - 1783

E208 .A433 1993

Companion to the American Revolution

E208 .C67 2000

Revolutionary Virginia: The Road to Independence

E263 .V8 R48 [1973+]

Nineteenth Century

Encyclopedia of the United States in the Nineteenth Century

E169.1 E626 2001

Civil War

Encyclopedia of the American Civil War: A Political, Social, and Military History

E468 .H47 2000

Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War

E468 .H57 1986

Encyclopedia of the Confederacy

E487 .E55 1993

Compendium of the War of the Rebellion [Dyer]

E491 .D922 1994

War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies ... [Official Records]

W 45.5: 1985 (Government Documents)

Also available as *Civil War CD-ROM ...* (E464 .C5 1996 Johnson Center - Permanent Media Reserve)

Civil War on the Web: A Guide to the Very Best Sites

E468.9 .C35 2003

Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War

<http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/>

Making of America [MOA] (University of Michigan and Cornell University)

<http://www.hti.umich.edu/m/moagrp/> and <http://library5.library.cornell.edu/moa/>

A digital library of primary sources in American social history from the Antebellum period through Reconstruction.

Historical Dictionary of the Gilded Age

E661 .H59 2003

Twentieth Century

Encyclopedia of the United States in the Twentieth Century

E740.7 .E53 1996

Encyclopedia of the Great Depression

E806 .E63 2004

First Measured Century: An Illustrated Guide to Trends in America, 1900-2000

JK2261 .B345 2000

Statistical Abstract of the United States [~1920s –]

C3.134:<yr> (Government Publications)

SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

The South

Encyclopedia of Southern History

F207.7 .E52 [1979]

Encyclopedia of Southern Culture

F209 .E53 1989

Encyclopedia of the Antebellum South

F213 .V65 2000

Travels in the Old South: A Bibliography

Z1251 .S7 C6 T7 [~1956]

Documenting the American South (DAS) [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library]

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/>

Collection of sources on Southern history, literature and culture from the colonial period through the first decades of the 20th century.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Selected Call Number Ranges

Sometimes browsing the shelves may be useful. Below is a simplified version of the Library of Congress Call Number Classification for the ranges most relevant to US History.

E–F History: America

E

- E 11-143 America
 - 11-29 General
 - 75-99 Indians of North America
- E 151-887 United States
 - 151-169.12 General
 - 169.1 Civilization. Intellectual Life
 - 171-183.4 History
 - 176 Biography (Collective)
 - 176.1-176.48 Presidents
 - 184-185.98 Elements of Population
 - 184.O6 Asians
 - 184.S75 Hispanic Americans
 - 184.3 Jews
 - 184.5-185.98 African Americans
 - 186-199 Colonial History, 1607-1775
 - 201-298 The Revolution, 1775-1783
 - 300-453 The Revolution to the Civil War, 1775/83-1861
 - 456-655 Civil War, 1861-65
 - 740-887 [Twentieth Century]

F

- F 1-975 United States Local History
 - 176-190 Maryland
 - 191-205 District of Columbia
 - 206-220 The South (South Atlantic States)
 - 221-235 Virginia

U–V Military and Naval Science

- U 27-45 History of Military Science, Historiography
- V 25-55 History and Antiquities of Naval Science

Other call number ranges of relevance to US History include:

G Geography, Anthropology, Recreation

G 1000.3-3122 Atlases
1105-1692 North America
1200-1534.24 United States

H Social Sciences

HA 1-4737 Statistics
HC-HD Economic History and Conditions
HN Social History and Conditions, Social Problems, Social Reform
HQ 1101-2030.7 Women, Feminism
HT Communities, Classes, Races

J Political Science

J (1)-981 General Legislative and Executive Papers
(10)-(98) United States
JK 1-9993 Political Institutions and Public Administration
1-9593 United States
JV 1-9480 Colonies & Colonization. Emigration & Immigration ...

K Law

KF Law of the United States

Subject Headings

Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) are used by almost all library catalogs to provide topical access to their holdings. The fullest description of the structure and use of these subject headings will be found in the “Red Books,” the **Library of Congress Subject Headings** (Z695 .L695 Reference Desk).

In addition to providing a list of the standard subject headings, LCSH also gives cross-references from non-authorized terms to an authorized heading (**USE**) as well as to broader terms (**BT**), narrower terms (**NT**), related terms (**RT**), and entire groups of related headings (**SA** for ‘see also’).

Given below are a *few* of the *many* kinds of Library of Congress Subject Headings related to United States history. The examples are meant to suggest starting points for doing subject searches in library catalogs.

A subject heading may be a topic, a person (or group or organization), a place, or an event.

For example:

American Literature -- Fairfax County (Va.) --
Bull Run, 1st Battle of, Va., 1861 -- Mason, George, 1725-1792 --

Note that a main subject heading may be further subdivided by one or more of the following:

- an aspect of the subject (e.g., -- History; -- Politics and Government)
- a place (e.g., -- United States; -- Virginia)
- a time period (e.g., -- 19th Century; -- 1783-1865)
- the item’s “form” (e.g., -- Bibliography; -- Dictionaries; -- Encyclopedias)

For example:

Afro-Americans -- Virginia -- History --
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865 -- Bibliography
Popular Culture -- United States -- History -- 20th century

United States -- Politics and government -- 1969-1974 -- Caricatures and Cartoons

Useful *subdivisions* relevant for “history” include:

- Under countries (e.g. United States), regions, etc.
 - Armed Forces --
 - Civilization --
 - Commerce --
 - Description and Travel --
 - History --
 - Economic Conditions --
 - Foreign Relations --
 - Intellectual Life --
 - Politics and Government --
 - Social Conditions --
 - Social Life and Customs --
- For primary source materials:
 - Correspondence
 - Personal Narratives
 - Interviews
 - Diaries
 - Pictorial Works
 - Sources
 - Under groups of persons, ethnic groups*
 - Biography

Useful subject *headings* for regions of the United States include:

New England --	Middle West --
Northeastern States --	Southwestern States --
Southern States --	West (U.S.) --

Library of Congress subject headings are used primarily in online *library catalogs*. Other online databases (e.g., the *America: History & Life*) may use a different set of subject terms. While doing keyword searches in such databases, you should investigate the subject searching capabilities of these resources, too.

FENWICK LIBRARY REFERENCE DEPARTMENT (document created 5/04)

Please send comments and suggestions to the Humanities Reference/Liaison Librarian, Fenwick Library.