

America in Context

Starting your Research

Talk to someone with specialized knowledge

Browse reference sources (*Read intro about how to use the source*)

Follow bibliographies to articles & books

Reference Sources

The Reference section of the Knight Library is a good place to begin your research. Articles in specialized encyclopedias can provide an overview of a topic as well as experts' names and book and article titles for further reading. Search the library catalog for these authors, books, and journals. Since books are shelved by subject, look around on the nearby shelves for sources on similar topics.

Encyclopedia of American Social History REFERENCE HN57 .E58 1993

A three-volume encyclopedia of thematic articles including such themes as "Periods of Social Change", "Ethnic & Racial Subcultures", and "Work & Labor". Includes detailed index.

Encyclopedia of African American Culture and History REFERENCE E185 .E54 1996

Five-volume encyclopedia with 2,200 entries. Contains lists of articles, contributors, and biographical entries by profession. Includes references, a detailed index and informative appendices with such information as statistics and notable achievements.

Encyclopedia of American Political History REFERENCE E183.E5 1984

A three-volume encyclopedia with extensive articles and bibliographies. More thorough than the one-volume encyclopedia of the same name, although it is also a good resource.

The Encyclopedia of Politics: The Left & The Right REFERENCE JA61.E54 2005

A two-volume set with strong articles that include bibliographies and cross-references. Coverage is international, though heavily American.

Evans Collection of Early American Imprints

Early American imprints is *the* most comprehensive collection of 17th- and 18th-century American publications. The UO Libraries own the full-text of the collection on microcard in the Microforms Department. The print index to the collection by Charles Evans is located in the Reference area at Z1215.E923. The title gives a good idea of the contents—*American Bibliography: a chronological dictionary of all books, pamphlets, and periodical publications printed in the United States of America from the genesis of printing in 1639 down to and including the year 1820*. Each volume has a subject and author index. Vol. 14 has a cumulative subject index covering all thirteen volumes and contains a key to the record ranges in each volume.

Finding Books: *Library Catalog or Summit*

The library catalog can be used to search for books, videos, journal titles, etc. It allows searching by keyword, Library of Congress (LC) Subject Heading, title and author. *Note that catalogers choose the most specific subject headings possible for the book as a whole.* So, you might not find what you are looking for by using general headings. There may not be a specific LC Subject Heading for your topic. If you have trouble identifying the exact concept for which you are searching, try a keyword search. Try adding the word "sources" to a keyword search to find primary sources on your topic.


Acquiring Books

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UO-owned books
Immediate access
Free

❷ *Summit Catalog*
31 NW academic libraries
2-3 working days
Free


❸ *WorldCat*
Thousands of libraries
1 Week to 10 days
Charges possible

Finding Article Citations: *Indexes & Abstracts*

Do not limit yourself to one database. Remember there are specialized indexes (print and electronic) for political science, science, religion, women's studies, philosophy, ethnic studies, etc. linked from the library home page under Databases & Indexes <<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/>>. After finding a citation, use the find text button——to find out whether we have access to the journal online or in print.

America: History & Life: Bibliography of US & Canadian history pre-history-present

Subject

Use  (browse button) to find exact headings

Time Period

Limit search by century or decade

e.g. 1800H = 19th century, 1910D = 1910-1919

Academic Search Premier Includes citations on various topics from popular and scholarly journals
Many of the articles are full text

Web Sites

Research by Subject: American History

< <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/history/ushist.html>>

Research by Subject: Political Science

< <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/polisci/>>

Questions?

Feel free to ask at the Reference Desk or contact Heather Ward hward@uoregon.edu