



U.S. History: A Guide to Selected Resources

The following is a selective list of United States history resources available in the Owen Library or accessible online. It is not intended to be a comprehensive guide. Please consult a Reference Librarian for advice on the best sources and search strategy on your topic.

Guide

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

Reference Z1236 .P45 2003

This is an excellent guide to resources important to the study of U.S. History. It includes a brief description of each.

Encyclopedias and Dictionaries

Dictionary of American History, 2nd ed. Rev.

Reference E174 .A43

James Truslow Adams' comprehensive dictionary is useful for an introduction or overview of broad topics and concise descriptions of specific items.

Dictionary of American History, 3rd ed.

Reference E174 .D52 2003

Also Available Online via PITT*Cat*

This multi-volume work by Stanley Kutler provides comprehensive coverage for topics in American history.

The American Revolution 1775-1783: An Encyclopedia

Reference E208 .A433 1993

Primary focus is the military history of the American Revolution. Also includes political and diplomatic themes, with examples of the impact of the war on society.

The Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates 10th ed.

Reference E174.5 .C3 1997

Brief descriptions of events, listed chronologically from 1986 to the present.

Dictionary of American English on Historical Principles

Reference PE2835 .C7 1940

An historical dictionary of words and phrases of American origin, used frequently in the U.S., or that have a connection with U.S. history.

Encyclopedia of American History

Reference E174.5 .E52 1996

Provides essential historical facts about American life and institutions. Events are organized chronologically and non-political aspects are organized topically.

Indexes & Databases

* Locate under "Find Articles" tab, then click "Locate databases" and "By Title."

*19th Century U.S. Newspapers**

Access to approximately 1.7 million pages of primary source newspaper content from the 19th century, featuring full-text content and images from numerous newspapers from a range of urban and rural regions throughout the U.S.

*African American Newspapers **

Provides access to a digital collection of African American newspapers, containing a large amount of information about cultural life and history during the 19th century. Provides full-text coverage from 1827 to 1900.

***America: History and Life* ***

Indexes periodicals and includes citations referencing book reviews and dissertations.

American History in Video*

A collection of commercial and governmental newsreels, archival footage, public affairs footage, and important documentaries. This release now provides 4,848 titles with videos from Newsreel Films and Documentary Educational Resources, PBS and The History Channel titles, archival footage from NASA and NARA, Universal Newsreel, and much more equaling approximately 1,215 hours.

***American Civil War: Letters and Diaries* ***

This digital collection offers the Civil War historian access to memoirs, letters, and diaries from many different sources, including previously unpublished material. Many different perspectives included in collection.

American Periodical Series Online 1740-1900*

American Periodicals Series Online (APS Online) includes digitized images of the pages of American magazines and journals published from colonial days to the dawn of the 20th century.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle (1841-1902)

<http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle/index.htm>

Provides indexing and full-text access to the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* from 1841 to 1902. A digital project of the Brooklyn Public Library.

***Early American Impints* ***

Available online through PITT*Cat*

Based on the *American Bibliography* by Charles Evans, this full-text collection is a core resource for information about all aspects of life in the 17th and 18th century America. Coverage is 1639-1800.

Early American Newspapers 1690-1922*

Early American Newspapers features cover-to-cover reproductions of hundreds of historic newspapers, providing more than one million pages as fully text-searchable facsimile images.

***Early Encounters in North America* ***

Provides full-text access to primary documents about early encounters of North American Indian, European, American, and African peoples and cultures in North America from 1534-1860. Documents include letters, diaries, memoirs, accounts, and images of early encounters. Main focus is on present day United States and Canada.

***New York Times Historical* ***

Provides indexing and full-text access to the *New York Times* newspaper (1851-2001). It is part of the larger *National Newspapers* database, but must be searched separately.

North American Women Letters and Diaries*

When complete this collection will include approximately 150,000 pages of published letters and diaries from individuals writing from Colonial times to 1950, plus 4,000 pages of previously unpublished materials.

***Poole's Plus: The Digital Index of the Nineteenth Century* ***

Provides indexing to 19th century books and periodicals. Does not provide full-text access. Material cited that is not owned by Owen Library may be requested through Interlibrary Loan.

Bibliographies & Guides

Directory of Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the United States 2nd ed.

Reference CD3020.D49 1988

Updates and revises Hamer's *A Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States*.

- Documents of American History*** 9th ed. Reference E173 .C66 1973
A compilation by Henry Steele Commager of official and quasi-official documents selected to illustrate American history from 1492.
- A Harvard Guide to American History*** Reference E178 .H35 1974
A useful 2 volume bibliographic guide to resources published prior to June 30, 1970.
- A Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States*** Reference CD3022 .A45
This is a valuable guide to collections of papers, manuscripts, and archives in the United States, with brief descriptions of major holdings.
- Guide to Records in the National Archives of the United States Relating to American Indians***
Reference Z1209.2 .U5H54 1982
- Guide to the Study of the United States; Representative Books Reflecting the Development of American Life and Thought.*** Reference Z1215 .U53
A bibliography offering an extensive list of prominent books on life in the United States. Most entries are annotated.
- Microfilm Resources for Research: A Comprehensive Catalog*** Reference CD3026 1990
Lists more than 2,000 microfilm publications available from the National Archives. Microfilm is available on loan through Interlibrary Loan or by purchase.

Biographical Resources

- Cambridge Dictionary of American Biography*** 2nd ed. Reference CT213 .C36 1995
Provides information about prominent Americans during all periods of history. Includes occupational index and an index about people mentioned in articles about others.
- Dictionary of American Biography (DAB)*** Reference E176 .D56 1964
Provides biographical articles on deceased individuals who made important contributions to American society
- Encyclopedia of American Biography*** Reference CT213 .G37 1974
Provides articles on prominent Americans, divided into two parts. The first part describes each individual objectively; the second part is an evaluative account regarding the influence of the individual written by different authorities.
- White's Conspectus of American Biography: A Tabulated Record of American History & Biography***
Reference E176 .W588 1972
Compiled by the editorial staff of the National Cyclopedia of American Biography, this is a very comprehensive resource for notable Americans, living and deceased. Emphasis is on individuals in government, finance, industry, and the professions, primarily since 1850.
- Notable American Women, 1607-1950; a Biographical Dictionary***
Reference CT3260.N57
- Notable American Women: The Modern Period; a Biographical Dictionary***
Reference CT3260. N573
Also available online through PITT*Cat*
These two resources survey the lives of women who have made a significant contribution to American history. All women, with the exception of the First Ladies, were selected due to their distinction in their own right.
- Who's Who in America*** Reference E176.W642
An excellent biographical directory of prominent living Americans in all fields.

Atlases

The American Heritage Pictorial Atlas of United States History Reference G1201 .S1A4 1966
Coverage in American history is from the Ice Age through the 1960's. Emphasis on military history, including maps of battles in the Revolution and Civil War.

Atlas of American History E179.5 .A3
U.S. history seen through a chronological arrangement of maps, period illustrations, and photographs. Colonial era through 1992.

Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States Reference Atlas G1200 .P3
Comprehensive U.S. historical atlas still useful and authoritative for social, economic, political, and military history up to 1920.

Additional Resources on the Internet

American Journeys: Eyewitness Accounts of Early American Exploration and Settlement
<http://www.americanjourneys.org/>
This digital library from the Wisconsin Historical Society is a large collection of eyewitness accounts of the exploration of North America, from the sagas of the Vikings in 1000 A.D. to diaries of pioneers in the American West in the 19th century. The searchable database includes books, original manuscripts, and travel narratives.

American Memory Project <http://memory.loc.gov/>
Consists of collections of primary source and archival material related to American culture and history. An on-going project at the Library of Congress—check regularly.

Archiving Early America <http://www.earlyamerica.com/>
Examines the world of early America through the media of the day. A searchable database. The digital library contains brief images of portraits, places, events, early scenes, people, battles, military, maps, documents, and other images.

The Charters of Freedom <http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/charters.html>
This National Archives web site contains transcriptions and digitized images of early documents of the American Republic. *Founding Fathers Page* includes brief biographies of the 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

Footnote <http://www.footnote.com/>
This site contains hundreds of original historical documents relating to the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, U.S. presidents, historical newspapers, and naturalization documents. Many titles have free full-text access, including the *Pennsylvania Archives Series*. Content can be searched or browsed.

From Revolution to Reconstruction <http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/>
An ongoing hypertext history of the U.S.: “An Outline of American History” covers the colonial period to the Bush presidency. Links may be made to hundreds of full text documents, including presidential speeches, the *Federalist Papers*, *Confessions of Nat Turner*, the Mayflower Compact, and the Northwest Ordinance.

Making of America <http://www.hti.umich.edu/m/moagrp/>
Digital library of primary sources in American social history from the Antebellum period through Reconstruction (1850-1877). Subject areas include education, psychology, American history, sociology, religion, and science and technology. Contains approximately 1600 books and 50,000 journal articles with 19th century imprints.