Civil War and the Making of America
History 304

Consider Resources

Primary Resources: diaries, letters, speeches, newspaper articles, documents, photos
Secondary Resources: books, journal articles (scholarly vs. popular), theses, the Web

Check subject guide under: Research by Subject → History → by Region → American

Find Background Information

The following titles are shelved in the Stauffer Library Reference collection unless stated.

Album of American History E178 .A2 A (5 volumes; Stauffer - Books)
A Companion to American Cultural History E169.1 .C684 2008 (and Online)
Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War REF E468 .H57 1986
Oxford Companion to United States History (Online)

Find Primary Sources

For general information about primary sources, go to: Research by Subject → Primary Sources

The primary source material in Stauffer Library will vary from topic to topic. It may be a diary, correspondence, letters, newspaper accounts, a law, a debate in Congress, editorials, a photo, etc. from the period of study, as well as electronic, microfilm, and printed collections of these documents published at a later date.

1. Use QCAT

The Library catalogue is a good place to start your search for primary source materials. Search QCAT to find books and magazine/newspaper titles from the time period about which you are writing as well as published documents and collections. To find newspaper and journal articles, see Indexes below.

A. Search by Subject or Keyword

You can locate items in the library by searching QCAT by doing a keyword Boolean search and then adding one of the special subject terms to your search: correspondence, diaries, interviews, pamphlets, personal narratives, sources....
“united states” and slavery and sources
“civil war” and “united states” and diaries

Also browse subject headings and look for these special subject terms.

United States--History--Civil war, 1861-1865--Sources
United States--History--Civil war, 1861-1865--Personal narratives, Confederate
Women--Confederate States of America--Diaries

B. Look up Historical Figures, Organizations, and Agencies

If you know of a person involved in the event or from the time period, look under that person’s name as an author (or subject) for memoirs, diaries, and correspondence. For example:

lincoln abraham
davis jefferson

Look up groups or organizations as an author (or subject).

united states. congress

2. Use Journal and Newspaper Indexes Covering the Time Period

Newspapers are a good source of primary information. Stauffer Library has a few American newspapers from the 19th centuries on microfilm (located on the lower level).

To find out what newspapers the Library has, search QCAT by newspaper title or search by subject heading, for example:

boston mass newspapers
new york n.y. newspapers

We have access to the following full text electronic newspapers via the link, Databases.

Atlanta Constitution 1868-1945  Hartford Courant 1764-1985
Boston Globe 1872-1927  Los Angeles Times 1881-1987
Chicago Tribune 1849-1987  Toronto Star 1894 to 3-4 yrs. ago
The Globe and Mail 1844 to 3-4 yrs. ago  Washington Post 1877-1994

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers (1836-1922) chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/

For more, check our Newspapers subject guide at: Research by Subject → Newspapers
Periodicals published at the time are another type of primary source. To locate 19th century periodical literature, consult the following indexes:

JSTOR
A full text archive of core scholarly journal literature in the social sciences and humanities dating back to the 1850s.

19th Century Masterfile (for researching pre-1930 materials)

Periodicals Archive Online
Facsimile page images and searchable full-text for approximately 500 international and scholarly journals in the humanities and social sciences from 1802-1995.

Some Popular Magazine Titles from the Time Period:

The Annual Register, in print
The Atlantic Monthly, 1857-1901
Debow's Review, 1846-1862, 1866-69
Harpers, 1850-1988 in print and online from 1900-
Harper's Weekly, 1861-65
The Ladies' Repository, 1841-76
The New Englander, 1843-92
The Old Guard, 1863-67
The Princeton Review, 1830-82
The Southern Literary Messenger, 1834-64

Plus more atMaking of America digital.library.cornell.edu/m/moa/browse.html

3. Use Government Documents
Publications generated by a government body, public records, reports and statistics are excellent sources of primary materials. Government documents reference assistance is available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2-4 p.m. or by appointment. You can reach Jeff Moon by email at moonj@queensu.ca.

For information about the American congressional and legislative documents, check the web page at: library.queensu.ca/webdoc/guides/uslegislative.htm

4. Search the Center for Research Libraries
For information about CRL and how to borrow resources, go to:

Research by Subject → Center for Research Libraries

This rich resource library holds over 4 million books, journals, newspapers and other primary source materials from all over the world.
CRL publishes topical guides, which gather in one place sources on a particular subject at:  
www.crl.edu/collections/topics/

Check the United States History guide at: www.crl.edu/collections/topics/united-states-history

5. Search the Web

To search the web for primary source collections, do an "Advanced Search" in Google:

"primary sources" "civil war" "united states" site:.edu

Primary source materials and related websites can be freely searched on the Web as well as the links below that lead you to websites for which the Library pays.

Access the following via the Databases tab:

- Accessible Archives
- Black Thought and Culture: African Americans from Colonial Times to the Present
- In the First Person: Index to Letters, Diaries, Oral Histories, and Other Personal Narratives
- North American Indian Thought and Culture
- North American Women's Letters and Diaries
- Slavery, Abolition and Social Justice, 1490-2007
- Women and Social Movements in the United States

Some websites provide access to online versions of primary sources which may be digitized images, facsimiles or full text. See below for a selection of websites:

**Amdocs: Documents for the Study of American History**  www.vlib.us/amdocs/  
Includes inaugural addresses, diary extracts, treaties, letters, speeches…

**Abraham Lincoln Papers** (at the Library of Congress)  
memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html

**American Civil War Homepage**  sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/

**American Memory**  memory.loc.gov/ammem/ 
Collections of primary source and archival materials relating to American culture and history.

**American Social and Cultural History (Smithsonian Institution)**  
www.si.edu/encyclopedia_si/nmah/

**A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates**  
lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html

**The Civil War** (Henry G. Bennett Memorial Library, Southeastern Oklahoma University)  
libguides.se.edu/content.php?pid=134303&sid=1151919
Civil War (Best of History Web Sites)  
www.besthistorysites.net/index.php/american-history/1800/civil-war

Civil War Home Page  www.civil-war.net/

Civil War in America (from the Illustrated London News)  
beck.library.emory.edu/iln/index.html

Civil War Photographs  www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/cwp/

Digital History  www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/

Documenting the American South  docsouth.unc.edu  
North American Slave Narratives  docsouth.unc.edu/neh/

Duke University Digital Collections  library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/#by-subject

Freedom and Southern Society Project  www.freedmen.umd.edu/index.html  
A collection of primary source material that tell the story of emancipation.

Internet History Sourcebooks Project  www.fordham.edu/halsall/  
A collection of primary source documents from ancient to modern times, such as:

Internet Modern History Sourcebook  www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html  
U.S. Civil War  www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/modsbook27.asp

Valley of the Shadow  valley.lib.virginia.edu

The library subscribes to a growing number of electronic databases that include primary source materials. For more information, check the American History: Primary Sources subject guide.

**Find Secondary Sources**

1. **Books**

To find books on your topic in QCAT, think of the words that best describe your topic and then connect them with Boolean operators: **AND**, **OR**, **NOT**.

**Topic:** Analyze the causes of growing opposition to slavery in the United States.

opposition **and** slavery **and** “united states”  
Search by: Keyword Boolean

Select useful titles and look at the subject headings. Use them to provide more keyword ideas or as individual searches themselves.

(antislavery **or** “anti slavery”) **and** “united states”
Search by Subject

Relevant subject headings for this topic:

Abolitionists--United States--History--19th century
Antislavery movements--United States--History--18th century
Antislavery movements--United States--History--19th century
Women abolitionists--United States--History

Other useful subject headings for an overview of the historical period include:

United States--Economic conditions--1865-1918
United States--History--Civil war, 1861-1865
United States--History--1849-1877
United States--History--1865-1898
United States--Politics and government--1865-1933
United States--Social life and customs--1783-1865
United States--Social conditions--1865-1918

2. E-Books

The library subscribes to a number of e-book packages. Packages that are of interest to history students are: ACLS Humanities E-Book, Canadian Electronic Library, MyiLibrary, Blackwell Reference Online, Cambridge Histories Online, and e-Duke Books Scholarly Collection (via ebrary).

Records for these e-books should be in QCAT or Summon but one can directly go to these e-books packages and search them. Access is via Databases.

3. Articles

Use the following electronic journal database to find scholarly articles:

→ America: History and Life: 1954 - present

Also Useful:
→ Historical Abstracts: 1954-
→ Humanities & Social Sciences Retrospective Index: 1907-1984
→ Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature: 1900- (REF AI3.R2)

To search indexes, click the tab Databases and enter the title of the database.

America: History and Life

Covers the history of Canada and the United States from prehistoric times to the present. It indexes articles from 1,700 journals, selected books and dissertations.

Topic: Presidential versus congressional Reconstruction plans and actions.
Search: congressional and reconstruction
Limit your Results: Year: 1863 AD to Year: 1877 AD
Modify to search other Subject Terms: congress* or federal government
Limit to Academic Journals
Also search presidents: Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, Ulysses Grant

To find out if Queen's subscribes to the journal, click Get It! @ Queen's if full text not readily available.

Journals

Queen's Library subscribes to about 90,000 full text e-journals via various publishers' packages. Search QCAT or Journals A to Z to find specific titles.

One collection that is of particular interest to history students is JSTOR, a digitized collection of articles from key periodicals (about 357 history titles are indexed), excluding the most current 2 to 5 years of a title. Access JSTOR via the tab, Databases.

4. Summon

You can search, discover and access information on any topic from the Queen's Library collections: print and electronic books, single articles to entire e-journals, newspapers, theses and more.

You can limit your results to peer-reviewed materials, filter by year and format, narrow by additional subject terms and then save, print or email references.

 Summon is a good starting point to find material for your research but if you are doing higher level research, you will want to search relevant subject specific databases.

Search Other Library Catalogues

If you don't find what you need in QCAT and Summon, try searching other library catalogues, using WorldCat, a database of library catalogues around the world. It can help you identify materials in other libraries, which you may then request through Interlibrary Loan. To access, click on Find Information and then on Other Library Catalogues.

Request an Interlibrary Loan

Use interlibrary loan (ILL) to obtain loans or copies of items that Queen's libraries do not own. Click RACER on the library homepage. For more information, consult the brochure: RACER, Our Interlibrary Loan System.

Search the Web

Check our Search the Web guide: library.queensu.ca/research/guide/search-web
Google Advanced Search  [www.google.ca/advanced_search](http://www.google.ca/advanced_search)

...offers a variety of ways to structure a more precise search and improve the efficiency of your search results.

Google Scholar [scholar.google.ca/](http://scholar.google.ca/)

...searches for scholarly materials including journal articles, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from broad areas of research.

**TIP:**
By searching Google Scholar through the Queen’s Library website, the "Get It! @ Queen’s" citation linker is activated (which allows you to click through to the Library’s subscriptions). To import citations into RefWorks, choose **Settings**, then **Bibliography Manager**. Select RefWorks and click Save.

For assistance on writing a historiographical paper, check our guide on the History subject guide.

### Evaluate Websites

Anyone can create a webpage so it is particularly important to analyze and assess information that you find on the Web before using it in a research paper.

Go to our Evaluating Web Sources page for a checklist of points to consider when analyzing a webpage:

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How-to & Help → How-To Guides → Finding → Web: Evaluate
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### Evaluate Sources

Evaluating all of your sources is a crucial step of the research process. Go to our Evaluating Sources page for criteria on how to judge information sources.

### Cite Sources

Check our Citation and Style Guides page at:  [How-to & Help → How to Cite Sources](http://www.qcat.ca/)

Chicago is the preferred style of documentation in history.
Check QCAT for print copies in the library system. Also available online.

Since there are many different citation styles, always check with your instructors to determine which style is expected for your courses.

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