Consider Resources

Primary Resources: diaries, letters, speeches, paintings, government documents...
Secondary Resources: books, journal articles (scholarly vs popular), theses, the Web...
Check subject guides: Research by Subject → History → Latin American Studies

Find Background Information

You may need to look up background information to help you understand your topic better and to help you with ideas on how to research more deeply for information on your topic.

Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture REF F1406 .E53 1996
Cambridge History of Latin America (In Cambridge Histories Online)
Cambridge Encyclopedia of Latin America and the Caribbean F1406 .C36 (Stauffer Books)
Encyclopedia of Historians and Historical Writing REF D14.E53 1999
Latin American Historical Dictionaries (Series title)
Oxford History of Mexico F1226 .O94 2000 (Stauffer Books)
Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World (Online)

Find Primary Sources

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

Primary sources are first-hand accounts, in a range of formats. The format will vary from topic to topic. It may be a diary, correspondence, newspaper accounts, a piece of legislation, a painting, etc. from the period of study, as well as electronic, microfilm, and printed collections of these documents published at a later date.

1. Search QCAT

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; speeches

mexico and revolution and sources
Also browse subject headings and look for these special subject terms:

- **Cuba History Revolution 1959 Personal Narratives**
- **Latin America History Sources**
- **Latin America History 20th Century Sources**
- **Mexico History Revolution 1910 1920 Sources**
- **Revolutionaries Mexico Chiapas Correspondence**

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:

- Castro Fidel
- Guevara Ernesto

2. Use Government Documents

Publications generated by a government body, public records, reports and statistics are excellent sources of primary materials. Although we do not have government documents from Latin America for this time period, you can find documents on the Web or in the Library, published in book format.

3. Search the Web

Search the web for primary source collections:

- "primary sources" “cuban missile crisis” site:edu [search using Google]

Some websites provide access to online versions of primary sources. These may be digitized images, facsimiles, or full text.

- **Avalon Project : Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy** avalon.law.yale.edu
- **Historical Text Archive** historicaltextarchive.com/
- **HuriSearch** www.hurisearch.org/
- **Internet Archive** archive.org/index.php
- **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
    - **19th Century Latin America** www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook32.html
    - **20th Century Latin America** www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook55.asp
Latin American Network Information Center - LANIC  lanic.utexas.edu
    History lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/history/

Latin American Pamphlet Digital Collection
    hcl.harvard.edu/collections/digital_collections/latin_american_pamphlets.cfm

Latin American Travelogues (16-19th centuries)  dl.lib.brown.edu/travelogues

History: Latin America-Primary Sources
    guides.lib.washington.edu/content.php?pid=61680&sid=454811

Ibero-American Electronic Text Series  uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/IbrAmerTxt
    Offers online versions of selected Latin American manuscripts, covering the Colonial period
    and 19th and 20th centuries

Latin American Studies: Free Digital Resources (Johns Hopkins University)
    guides.library.jhu.edu/content.php?pid=23477&sid=188826

National Security Archive  www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/
    Contains declassified documents from the CIA and other sources about Chile, Cuba,
    Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico

Sources and General Resources on Latin America  www.oberlin.edu/faculty/svolk/latinam.htm

World Digital Library: Latin America and the Caribbean Collections
    www.wdl.org/en/ and then click on Latin America and the Caribbean

4. Search the Center for Research Libraries

For information about CRL and to borrow resources go to:

    Research by Subject → Center for Research Libraries

This rich resource holds over 5 million books, journals, newspapers and other primary source
materials from all over the world. Check out the topical guides that CRL has produced on various
countries and especially the one on Latin American Studies at:
    www.crl.edu/collections/topics/latin-american-studies.

Find Secondary Sources

1. Books

To find books on your topic, use either a keyword Boolean or subject search. If you know the
correct subject heading you can do a subject search. Sometimes you can guess the correct
subject heading but mostly, you will have to do a keyword search. Think of the words that best
describe your topic and then connect them with the Boolean operators: AND, OR, NOT.
My topic: How did the Cold War affect the US policy in Latin America?

Search: "cold war" and "latin america" and "united states"
Within: Keyword Boolean

Select useful titles from your hits and then look at the subject headings. Use them to provide more keyword ideas or as individual searches themselves. Also try searching other words that describe your topic, including synonyms, related terms, etc.

("latin america" or cuba or chile) and "united states" and "cold war"

Search by Subject

Useful subject headings for an overview of the historical period include:

- Cuba Social life and customs
- El Salvador History 1979 1992
- Latin America History 20th century
- Latin America Civilization
- Latin America Intellectual life 20th century
- Latin America Social conditions
- Mexico Economic conditions 1918-
- Peru Politics and government 1919-1968
- Women Latin America History

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, Cambridge Histories Online, Ebrary, MyiLibrary and e-Duke Books Scholarly Collection. Access is via Databases.

To find individual e-book titles, search QCAT and Limit to: E-Books.

3. Articles

Use the following databases to find scholarly articles:

→ Historical Abstracts
→ PRISMA, (includes Hispanic American Periodicals Index)
→ HLAS Online (Handbook of Latin American Studies)

Consider these other indexes:

→ America: History and Life
→ Academic Search Complete
→ Ethnic NewsWatch
→ Latin American Newsletters
→ Public Affairs International (PAIS)
→ Religion Database
To search indexes, click on the tab **Databases** and enter title of the database or index.

**Search Historical Abstracts**

Historical Abstracts covers the history of the world from 1450 to the present. It indexes articles from more than 2,600 journals, selected books and dissertations.

**My topic:** the role of women in the Nicaraguan revolution

**Search:** women and revolution and nicaragua

Modify search: (women or gender) and nicaragua and revolution*

To find out if Queen's subscribes to the journal, click on **Get It! @ Queen's** if the full text is 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 334 history titles are indexed as well as 54 Latin American Studies titles), excluding the most current 2 to 5 years of a title.

**Access JSTOR via Databases.**

Selected journal titles that may be of interest:

- **The Americas**
- **Bulletin of Latin American Research**
- **Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies**
- **Comparative Studies in Society and History**
- **The Hispanic American Historical Review**
- **Historia Mexicana** (text in Spanish)
- **Journal of Iberian and Latin American Research**
- **Journal of Latin American Studies**
- **Latin American Perspectives**
- **Latin American Research Review**
- **Mexican Studies**
- **NACLA Report on the Americas**
- **Studies in Latin American Popular Culture**
Bibliographies

- Oxford Bibliographies Online
  OBO is a resource that offers discipline focused guides to the essential literature in subjects across the humanities and social sciences. Check the Latin American Studies guide which lists many resources with annotations.

- Latin America: a Guide to the Historical Literature  Online & in Print at REF Z1601 .G75

4. Summon

With Summon, you can easily 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 can be 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.

5. Book Reviews

In order to locate a book review, you need to have the following information:

- Author
- Full title of the book
- Year in which the book was first published

To find reviews of history books, go to the database, Book Review Index Plus.

Also consider searching for book reviews in Summon and check out the Research Subject Guide Book Reviews for additional resources such as The New York Times Book Review and The Times Literary Supplement.

Search Other Library Catalogues

If you don’t find what you need in QCAT, try searching other library catalogues, using WorldCat. WorldCat is 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 home page.

For more information, consult the brochure: RACER, Our Interlibrary Loan System.
Search the Web

Check our Search the Web guide at: library.queensu.ca/research/guide/search-web

Google

Google Advanced Search 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/

... 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).

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

Cite and Manage Your Sources

Check our Citation and Style Guides page at: How-to & Help → How to Cite Sources

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

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

Elizabeth Gibson
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Stauffer Library
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