

# History of the Caribbean in a Global Perspective

## History 303

### Consider Resources

**Primary Resources:** diaries, letters, speeches, newspaper articles, documents, photos

**Secondary Resources:** books, journal articles (scholarly vs. popular), theses, the Web

Check subject guides under: **Research by Subject** → **History** → **By Region** → **British**  
→ **Caribbean**

### Define Your Topic

Identify the main concepts in your topic and come up with synonyms for your search terms. If you haven't decided on your topic, you might want to first find background information (see below).

When searching for items with Caribbean content, try alternate keywords, e.g. "West Indies" or "Caribbean". Also consider entering the proper name of a country, e.g. "Haiti".

Use Boolean logic to formulate an effective search strategy that can be used in searching the library catalogue or databases. My topic: British abolitionist movement and the Caribbean.

<b>Main concepts:</b>	abolitionist	British	Caribbean
<b>Synonyms:</b>	slave trade anti-slavery	Britain England	West Indies, Haiti ...

### Find Background Information

Once you have your topic, you may want to check one or more sources for background information - the most common being encyclopedias and dictionaries. These sources will help you understand the broader context of your research and tell you about your topic. They may also assist you in narrowing your topic and help you develop a thesis statement when writing a research paper.

For useful resources on the Caribbean, check the Dictionaries and Encyclopedias section of the Caribbean history subject guide.

**Research by Subject** → **History** → **By Region** → **Caribbean** → **Dictionaries and Encyclopedias**

### Find Primary Sources

For 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 Parliament, 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. Use QCAT

Search *QCAT* to identify and locate primary resources. Certain words included in the Library of Congress Subject Headings indicate the work is a primary source. These special subject terms include: **sources, diaries, correspondence, pamphlets, description and travel ...**

### A. Search by Subject or Keyword

Do a keyword Boolean search and then add one of the special subject terms to your search:

Caribbean and history and **sources**

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

Slave trade--Great Britain--History--**Sources**

Jamaica--History--**Sources**

Caribbean area--**Description and travel**--Early works to 1800

Collections of primary sources often have the word **documents** in the title:

britain and (jamaica or caribbean) and **document?**

### 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:

columbus christoper

wilberforce william

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

great britain parliament

## 2. Use Journal and Newspaper Indexes Covering the Time Period

**Newspapers** are a good source of primary information. Stauffer Library has a number of newspapers from this time period: *The Times* (London), the *Guardian* (Manchester) and the *Observer* (London).

To find out what newspapers the Library has, search *QCAT* by newspaper title or search by subject heading, e.g. london england newspapers

We have access to the following full text electronic newspaper via the link, **Databases:**

### **The Times Digital Archive (1785 - 1985)**

To locate **periodical literature** published at the time, consult the following indexes:

#### **British Periodicals**

A collection of facsimile page images and searchable full text for hundreds of British periodicals from 1680-1930.

#### **Eighteenth Century Journals: a Portal to Newspapers and Periodicals, c1685-1815**

Provides access to:

Bermuda Gazette and Weekly Advertiser 1785

Daily Advertiser (Jamaica) 1790

Jamaica Mercury and Kingston Weekly Advertiser 1779-1780

Kingston Journal (Jamaica) 1789

Royal Gazette (Jamaica) 1780-1812

#### **Periodicals Archive Online**

An archive of hundreds of digitised journals published in the arts, humanities and social sciences from 1802 to 1995.

#### **The Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals**

An invaluable bibliographic reference work of major 19th century British periodicals, published during the years, 1824 to 1900.

Freely available on the Web:

#### **British Newspapers, 1800-1900**

<http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs/>

Search 49 local and national titles for bibliographical references. To access full text, you will have to purchase a pass.

#### **Caribbean Newspaper Digital Library**

<http://dloc.com/cndl>

### **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.

Check out the *House of Commons Parliamentary Papers* (U.K) via the link, **Databases**, as well as the guide, *United Kingdom Parliamentary Documents*, at:  
<http://library.queensu.ca/webdoc/gov/uklegislative.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 Services**

This rich resource library holds over 4 million books, journals, newspapers and other primary source materials from all over the world.

In the following topical guides, CRL has gathered in one place sources on:

"Great Britain" <http://www.crl.edu/collections/topics/great-britain>

"Latin American Studies" <http://www.crl.edu/collections/topics/latin-american-studies>

#### **5. Search the Web**

Search the web for primary source collections:

"primary sources" "anti slavery" Britain site:.edu [search using Google]

"primary sources" "anti slavery" Britain site:.ac.uk

Primary source materials and related websites can be freely reached on the web as well as the links below that lead you to websites for which the library pays.

Access the following via **Databases**:

##### **Eighteenth Century Collections Online**

Access to digital images of books published in the British Isles during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

##### **Empire Online**

Contains several thousand searchable scanned images of original documents relating to Empire Studies. Includes Cultural Contact, 1482-1969, Literature and Empire, the Visible Empire, Religion and Empire, Race, Class, Imperialism and Colonialism, c1607-2007.

##### **Slavery, Abolition and Social Justice, 1490-2007**

A collection of materials from libraries and archives on slavery and abolition studies.

A selection of freely available websites:

##### **Atlantic Slave Trade and Slave Life in the Americas: A Visual Record**

<http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/Slavery/index.php>

### **The British Library's Caribbean Views Online Exhibit**

<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/carviews/index.html>

Showcases British Library material relating to the British West Indies.

### **British History Online**

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

A "digital library containing some of the core printed primary and secondary sources for the medieval and modern history of the British Isles."

### **Caribbean Online - Routes to Roots**

<http://commonwealth.sas.ac.uk/libraries/caribbean/introduction.htm>

This online exhibition showcases some of the Caribbean-related materials from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies' collection, including slavery and abolition, agriculture and trade, the experience of soldiers from the Caribbean in World War One, independence and the development of trade unions and political parties.

### **Digital Library of the Caribbean**

<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/?c=dloc>

Access to news, documents, and images about and from the Caribbean.

**The Illustrating Traveler: Adventure and Illustration in North America and the Caribbean, 1760-1895** <http://www.library.yale.edu/beinecke/illus.htm>

### **Latin American Network Information Center**

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/>

Administered by the University of Texas Austin, LANIC provides access to official (government), scholarly, and popular internet portals to information on Latin America for virtually every subject available.

### **Slave Movement During the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries**

<http://www.disc.wisc.edu/slavedata/>

### **Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database**

<http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces>

Provides an interactive website and database with access to digitized maps, images, and an African names database.

### **Voice of the Shuttle: History**

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

**19<sup>th</sup>-Century Britain** <http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=107>

**Latin America ...** <http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2713#id1650>

## World Digital Library

<http://www.wdl.org/en/>

Access to cultural materials from around the world that includes manuscripts, maps, prints and photographs and more.

## 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**.

For a selection of books on the British anti-slavery movement, try this:

("anti-slavery" **or** abolitionist) **and** britain [within Keyword Boolean]

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

("anti-slavery" **or** "slave trade") **and** (britain **or** caribbean **or** "west indies")

### Search by Subject

Slave trade--Great Britain--History  
Antislavery movements--America--History  
Antislavery movements--Great Britain--History  
Social movements--Great Britain--History  
Slavery--West Indies  
Slavery--Caribbean area--History  
Slaves--Emancipation--Caribbean Area--History  
Spain--Colonies--America

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

Great Britain--Colonies--West Indies  
Great Britain--Economic conditions--1760-1860  
Great Britain--History--Victoria, 1837-1901  
Great Britain--Politics and government--1800-1837  
Great Britain--Social conditions--19<sup>th</sup> century  
Great Britain--Social life and customs--19<sup>th</sup> century  
Spain--Colonies--America

## 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 some of these e-books are in QCAT but one should directly go to these e-book packages and search them. Access is via **Databases**.

## 3. Articles

Use the following databases to find scholarly articles:

- *Historical Abstracts*: 1954 -
- *HLAS Online: Handbook of Latin American Studies*: 1936-
- *Bibliography of British and Irish History*: coverage varies

Also Useful: → *Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective*: 1907 - 1984  
→ *PRISMA*: 1991 -  
→ *Google Scholar*

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

### Search Historical Abstracts

*Historical Abstracts* covers the history of the world from 1450 to the present. It indexes articles from approximately 2000 journals, selected books and dissertations.

Search:	slave* and revolts and west indies
Revise search:	slave* and (revolts or insurrections or riots or violence or resistance) and ("west indies" or barbados or jamaica)

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

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 240 history titles are indexed), excluding the most current 2 to 5 years of a title. Access JSTOR via the link, **Databases**.

The following titles are a selection of journals that you may find useful:

[Anthurium](#)  
[Caribbean Quarterly](#)  
[Caribbean Studies](#)  
[Comparative Studies in Society and History](#)  
[English Historical Review](#)  
[Historian](#)  
[Historical Journal](#)  
[Jamaican Historical Review](#)  
[Journal of British Studies](#)  
[Journal of Caribbean history](#)  
[Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History](#)  
[Journal of Eastern Caribbean Studies](#)  
[Journal of Haitian Studies](#)  
[Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History](#)  
[Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies](#)  
[Nineteenth-Century Studies](#)  
[Past and Present](#)  
[Slavery and Abolition](#)  
[Social History](#)  
[Victorian Studies](#)  
[Wadabagei: a Journal of the Caribbean and its Diaspora](#)

Freely available on the Web:

[Caribbean Abstracts \(1989- \)](#)

<http://asa2.pica.nl/IMPLAND=Y/SRT=YOP/LNG=EN/DB=1.6/>

A catalogue containing abstracts of selected books and articles about the Caribbean.

#### **4. Summon**

Summon is a library search engine that helps you discover information on any topic from the Queen's Library collections. It searches books, journals, newspapers and provides you with several ways to narrow your search results.

Summon is good for broad, initial searches but it is not totally comprehensive. 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. 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: <http://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/search-web>



[http://www.google.ca/advanced\\_search?hl=en](http://www.google.ca/advanced_search?hl=en)

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



<http://books.google.ca/>

...searches for books on your topic. In many cases, a limited preview of the book is available - you can then search QCAT, the library catalogue to see if Queen's owns a copy. In other instances, the complete book is available in digital form from Google Books.



<http://scholar.google.ca/>

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

... searches a variety of academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities, as well as scholarly articles available across the web.

**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 **Scholar Preferences**, then **Bibliography Manager**. Select RefWorks. Save Preferences.

## 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 web page:

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

## **Cite 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.

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

## **Write a Research Paper**

Some guides to consider:

**Dartmouth Writing Program: Writing the History Paper**

[http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/soc\\_sciences/history.shtml](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/soc_sciences/history.shtml)

**University of Toronto: Writing About History**

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/history>

**Reading, Writing and Researching for History: a Guide for College Students**

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-guides/>

*Elizabeth Gibson  
Learning and Research Services  
Stauffer Library  
Winter 2011*