American Society and Culture Since 1877  
History 314

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 Dictionary of American History**  REF E174 .A2 (and Online)
- **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 search and then adding one of the special subject terms to your search: correspondence, diaries, interviews, pamphlets, personal narratives, sources....
“united states” and (social or society) and sources
japanese and (evacuation or internment) and sources
“world war” and diaries

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

Women--United States--History--Sources
Women--United States--Social conditions--Sources
World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives

Collections of primary sources often have the word documents or papers in the title.

documents and "united states" and social and history

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:

king martin luther
roosevelt franklin

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 and 20th 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:

Boston Mass Newspapers
New York N.Y. Newspapers

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Constitution</td>
<td>1868-1945</td>
<td>Hartford Courant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston Globe</td>
<td>1872-1927</td>
<td>Los Angeles Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Tribune</td>
<td>1849-1987</td>
<td>Toronto Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Globe and Mail</td>
<td>1844 to 3-4 yrs ago</td>
<td>Washington Post</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For more information, check our Newspapers subject guide at:

Research by Subject → Newspapers

Periodicals published at the time are another type of primary source. To locate 19th and 20th century periodical literature, consult the following indexes:

19th Century Masterfile

Provides indexing to nineteenth century periodicals, books, newspapers, and government documents. The main index is Poole’s Index to Periodical Literature (1802-1906).

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.

Also consider:


Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective: 1907 - 1984 (online)

PAIS: 1915 - present (online)

Vital Speeches of the Day, 1934 – present (in print and online)

Contains the important addresses of contemporary leaders of public opinion.

Some Popular Magazine Titles from the Time Period:

Advertising Age, 1950- on microfilm
Ebony, 1955- on microfilm
Fortune, 1930-1965 in print and on microfilm from 1960-
Harpers, 1850-1988 in print and online from 1900-
Ladies Home Journal, 1889-1914 in print (incomplete)
Life, 1951-1972 in print and on microfilm from 1936-1950
Maclean’s, 1921- in print and on microfilm from 1905-
The Nation, 1891-1965 in print and on microfilm from 1966-
New Republic, 1914- online
New Yorker, 1925- online
Newsweek, 1947- on microfilm
Saturday Evening Post, 1931- online
Saturday Night, 1887-2000 on microfilm
Sports Illustrated, 1954- online and on microfilm
Time, 1923- on microfilm
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

4. Search the Web

Search the web for primary source collections:

“primary sources” “japanese internment” site:.edu (advanced search in Google)
"digital collections" "internment camps" site:.edu

Denshō Educational Website www.densho.org
Personal testimonies of Japanese Americans incarcerated

Japanese American Relocation Digital Archives jarda.cdlib.org

Explore the following important collections of digitized primary sources on the Web.

Amdocs: Documents for the Study of American History www.vlib.us/amdocs/
Directory of primary source documents arranged by time period. Includes inaugural addresses, diary extracts, treaties, letters, speeches...

America's Historical Governments www.archives.gov/historical-docs/

American Memory memory.loc.gov/ammem/
Collections of primary source and archival material relating to American culture and history.
Avalon Project: Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy  avalon.law.yale.edu/

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

Core Documents of U.S. Democracy  www.gpoaccess.gov/coredocs.html

Digital History  www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/

History Online  www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Resources/Type/primary.html

This database links to hundreds of history Web sites, many of which contain primary sources. Browse, or search by keyword and limit by time period.

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

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.

For a selection of books on the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII, try this search:

japanese and internment  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.

japanese and american? and (internment or evacuation)

Search by Subject

Relevant subject headings for this topic:

Japanese Americans--Civil rights
Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
Manzanar War Relocation Center
Prisoners of war--United States--History--20th century
World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--United States
World War, 1939-1945--Evacuation of civilians
Other useful subject headings for an overview of the historical period include:

- United States--Economic conditions--1945-
- United States--History--1939-1945
- United States--Politics and government--1865-1933
- United States--Social life and customs--1918-1945
- United States--Social conditions--1960-1980

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 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
- PAIS: 1915-
- Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature: 1900- (REF AI3.R2)
- Religion Database: 1949-
- Social Sciences Abstracts: 1983-

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 - present. It indexes articles from 1,700 journals, selected books and dissertations.

Search: japanese and internment
Modify to search Subject Terms: japanese americans and internment

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.
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 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. 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 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

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.

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.

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 webpage:

How-to & Help → How-To Guides → Finding … → 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.

Elizabeth Gibson
Learning and Research Services
Stauffer Library
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