

# Modern Britain History 329

## 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**

## Find Background Information

Search QCAT by subject heading, for example:

great britain biography dictionaries  
great britain civilization 19<sup>th</sup> century encyclopedias  
great britain history dictionaries  
great britain history 19<sup>th</sup> century encyclopedias

### Selected Titles:

Cambridge Historical Encyclopedia of Great Britain and Ireland REF DA34 .C28 1985

Encyclopedia of the Victorian Era REF DA550 .E527 2004 (4 vols.)

Oxford Companion to British History (Online)

Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century British Politics REF DA566.7 .B88 2002

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (Online)

A Companion to Victorian Literature and Culture (Online)

## Find Primary Sources

For information about primary sources, go to:

**Research by Subject → Primary Sources**

There is an abundance of primary source material in Stauffer Library. The form will vary from topic to topic. It may be a diary, correspondence, letters, newspaper accounts, a law, a debate in Parliament, 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

Search *QCAT* to find books, government documents and the location of newspaper and journal titles. To find individual 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....**

history and victorian and britain and **sources**  
(britain or england) and women and **diaries**

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

Women--Great Britain--History--19<sup>th</sup> century--**Sources**  
Great Britain--Social conditions--19<sup>th</sup> century--**Sources**

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

(britain or empire) and india and **documents**

### 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.

booth charles  
gladstone w

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)**

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

### **British Periodicals**

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

### **19<sup>th</sup> Century Masterfile**

Provides indexing to nineteenth century periodicals, books, newspapers, and government documents (both U.S. and U.K.). The main index is **Poole's Index to Periodical Literature** (1802-1906).

### **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**

[newspapers.bl.uk/blcs/](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.

### **Nineteenth-Century Serials Edition (NCSE)**

[www.ncse.ac.uk/index.html](http://www.ncse.ac.uk/index.html)

Online edition of six nineteenth-century periodicals and newspapers.

## **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:

[library.queensu.ca/webdoc/gov/uklegislative.htm](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 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/](http://www.crl.edu/collections/topics/)

Check the Great Britain guide at: [www.crl.edu/collections/topics/great-britain](http://www.crl.edu/collections/topics/great-britain)

CRL has also published focus guides on specific topics, e.g. England in Africa; Colonial India: [www.crl.edu/focus/issue-index](http://www.crl.edu/focus/issue-index)

#### 5. Search the Web

Search the web for primary source collections:

"primary sources" "suffrage movement" Britain site:.edu [search using Google]  
"primary sources" suffrage 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:

##### **British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries**

Includes approximately 100,000 pages of published letters and diaries from individuals writing from 1500 to 1950.

##### **Defining Gender, 1450-1910**

Collection of original source material from British and European archives to support study and analysis of gender, leisure and consumer culture.

##### **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.

## **Nineteenth-Century Short Title Catalogue**

A bibliography of over 1.2 million records for the 19<sup>th</sup>-century holdings of eight of the world's top research libraries. It covers virtually all printed materials published in the U.S. and the British Empire from 1801 to 1919.

## **Past Masters**

A collection of works, in both original language and English translation, written by seminal figures in the humanities and social sciences.

## **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:

### **British History Online**

[www.british-history.ac.uk/](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."

### **British and Commonwealth History - Collections of Primary Resources**

[www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/hasrg/abhist/brithist/primary.html](http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/hasrg/abhist/brithist/primary.html)

### **Digital Colonial Documents (India) Homepage**

[www.chaf.lib.latrobe.edu.au/dcd/default.htm](http://www.chaf.lib.latrobe.edu.au/dcd/default.htm)

### **EuroDocs**

[eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Main_Page)

This site contains primary historical documents from Western Europe.

### **Internet History Sourcebooks Project**

[www.fordham.edu/halsall/](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/)

A collection of primary source documents from ancient to modern times, such as:

**Internet Indian History Sourcebook** [www.fordham.edu/halsall/india/indiasbook.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/india/indiasbook.html)

**Internet Modern History Sourcebook** [www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html)

**Imperialism** [www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook34.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook34.html)

### **The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913**

[www.oldbaileyonline.org/](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/)

Fully searchable edition of the largest body of texts detailing the lives of non-elite people ever published, containing 197,745 criminal trials held at London's central criminal court.

Victorian Web [www.victorianweb.org/](http://www.victorianweb.org/)

Voice of the Shuttle: History [vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2713](http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2713)

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

20<sup>th</sup>-Century Britain [vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=112](http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=112)

WWI Document Archive [wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Main_Page)

## 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 suffrage movement in Britain, try this:

"suffrage movement" **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.

("women's rights" **or** suffrage) **and** (britain **or** england) **and** history

### Search by Subject

Feminism--Great Britain--History--19<sup>th</sup> century

Women--Suffrage--Great Britain--History

Women--Legal status, laws, etc.--Great Britain--History

Suffragists--Great Britain--History

Social movements--Great Britain--History

World War, 1914 1918--Women--Great Britain

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

Great Britain--Colonies--India

Great Britain--Economic conditions--1918-1945

Great Britain--History--Victoria, 1837-1901

Great Britain--Politics and government--1837-1901

Great Britain--Social conditions--19<sup>th</sup> century

Great Britain--Social life and customs--19<sup>th</sup> century

### 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 to find scholarly articles:

- *Historical Abstracts*: 1954 - present
- *Bibliography of British and Irish History*: coverage varies

Also Useful:   → *Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective*: 1907 - 1984  
                  → *Academic Search Complete*  
                  → *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:            colonization and britain and africa

Modify search: (colonies or colonization or imperialism) and (africa or kenya) and britain (limit to subject terms)

To find out if Queen's subscribes to the journal, click **Get It! @ Queen's** if PDF 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 247 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:

- [English Historical Review](#)
- [Historian](#)
- [Historical Journal](#)
- [International History Review](#)
- [Journal of British Studies](#)
- [Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History](#)
- [Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History](#)
- [Journal of Victorian Culture](#)
- [Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies](#)
- [Nineteenth-Century Studies](#)
- [Victorian Literature and Culture](#)
- [Victorian Studies](#)

#### 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.

#### 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

For reviews of history books, check the following sources:

Humanities Abstracts  
Social Sciences Abstracts  
Book Review Index Plus  
New York Review of Books  
New York Times Book Review  
JSTOR (2-5 year lag in journal coverage)

Also check out the Research Subject Guide, [Book Reviews](#), for additional resources. Also try finding book reviews in Summon.

### 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: [library.queensu.ca/research/guide/search-web](http://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/search-web)



[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.



[books.google.ca/](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.



[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.

... 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.

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