Research Resources for Graduate Students in History

Library Homepage  library.queensu.ca

Stauffer Library Homepage  library.queensu.ca/stauffer/

Connect from Off-Campus  proxy.queensu.ca/
Access to the Library’s electronic subscriptions (e-books, e-journals, indexes and databases) is restricted to current Queen’s students, faculty and staff. When connecting from off-campus, sign in with your NetID when prompted. If you are not prompted, go to the webpage above and sign in.

Research by Subject   -   History
library.queensu.ca/research/guide/history
Selective guides to the core library resources for history and regional histories.
Queen’s Library System

Queen’s Library consists of six libraries in five physical locations. Stauffer Library is the largest library on the Queen’s campus and houses the Humanities and Social Sciences collections. Maps, Data and Government Information Centre are located on the lower level of Stauffer.

Other libraries include Bracken Health Sciences, Education, Law, Engineering and Science (in Douglas Library) and W.D. Jordan Special Collections and Music (located in Douglas Library).

Research Tools

Summon

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

Library Catalogue

You can search the Library Catalogue (QCAT) separately. Search QCAT to find the Library’s holdings which include books, videos, journals, newspapers and government documents, in print and online.
There are several entry points to search QCAT: keyword, title, journal title, author and subject being the most popular.

TIP: It is suggested to use multiple approaches and entry points to find information on a topic. For detailed help, see the Finding Books and More ... guide [pdf].

**Journals**

The Library subscribes to hundreds of journals relevant to the field of history. Individual journal titles are listed in QCAT. When you know the title of a journal you are looking for, do a journal title search in QCAT to determine its location (either in print and on the 2nd floor of Stauffer or online).

**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 (via ebrary).

Blackwell Reference Online contains nearly all of the volumes in Blackwell’s excellent Companion to...series, e.g. *A companion to post 1945 America*.

Records for most of these e-books are in QCAT but one can directly go to these e-book packages and search them. Access is via Databases.

**Current Awareness**

Current awareness tools are notification or alert services that help you stay up-to-date with publications and news in your area of research and study.

Types of current awareness tools include search alerts, database alerts, table of contents alerts, journal and book alerts sent directly to your email account.

**Article Indexes and Databases**

For the most current information on a topic, emerging trend or person, use article index databases to search for citations to journal articles in scholarly journals, popular magazines and newspapers. The online databases all have features which allow you to select or limit searches depending on the type of information and format you’re seeking.

Databases are accessed from the library home page and from the subject guides.

To search journal indexes, click the tab Databases and enter the title of the database, if known. To view all databases associated with a particular discipline, click More Database Options, then All Subjects A-Z.
Each academic discipline has its own specialized article indexes and databases and there are many databases you can use to find scholarly articles on historical topics. Our subject guides list core and related recommended databases for each discipline.

- **Main Databases**

  The two main article databases for history are Historical Abstracts and America: History and Life. One or the other of these databases is usually the best starting place to search for scholarly articles in English on topics in history.

- **Multidisciplinary Databases**

  There are several specialized or multidisciplinary article databases that provide indexing of articles on historical topics. Academic Search Complete, British Periodicals (1680-1930), Humanities and Social Sciences Retrospective (1907-1984) Nineteenth Century Masterfile, and Periodicals Archive Online (1802-1995) are broadly multidisciplinary and cover a range of journals in the social sciences and humanities. PAIS covers a wide range of books, journals and government reports on issues of public policy from 1915 onwards.

- **Specialized Databases**

  There are many more specialized article databases that might be useful, depending on your topic, time period, and geographical region.

  For medievalists, a good starting place is the International Medieval Bibliography, which indexes and abstracts articles published since 1968 on the history of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa from 400 to 1500. Iter: Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance offers indexing of articles and book reviews (1943- ), as well as collections of essays (1996- ). Feminae: Medieval Women and Gender Index provides indexing for essays, multi-authored collections, and journal articles on women, sexuality and gender in the Middle Ages, published since 1990.

  For area studies, consult the American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies, the Handbook of Latin American Studies, Index Islamicus, Bibliography of Asian Studies, Gender Studies Database, Bibliography of British and Irish History Online to name a few. All of these databases are accessible via the tab, Databases and the subject guides.

- **Related Disciplines**

  Article databases created for other disciplines may also be useful to historians. Examples include:

  - Philosopher’s Index
  - ATLA Religion Database
  - MLA Bibliography
  - L’Année philologique
  - Bibliography of the History of Art
  - EconLit
• **Access to Databases on + off campus**

If you’re working from a networked computer *on campus* there is no login process as you’re already on the campus network. Selecting a database link will take you directly into the search interface.

If you’re off campus, you can access the Library’s electronic resources by logging into the [Web Proxy](#).

**Google Scholar**

Google Scholar is most effectively used as a supplement to other search strategies. Historical Abstracts and America History and Life remain the standard “first stop” article indexes for historical research.

Google Scholar doesn’t disclose what exactly it does and does not search. It does search some online journal collections, like JSTOR, Project Muse and the output of major online publishers, e.g. OUP and Wiley Blackwell. But it doesn’t search all of the online journal collections you can access through the Library so you cannot be confident that you have discovered the relevant and important articles on your topic.

**Newspapers**

QUL has an extensive collection of newspapers, both current and retrospective, in a variety of formats, including hard copy, microfilm and digital reproductions.

When searching for a particular newspaper title, try searching it first by title in QCAT. Also try searching by subject heading, e.g. london england newspapers.

Also check the Newspapers subject guide at:

Research by Subject ➔ Newspapers

QUL has access to some historical newspapers online, which include the Proquest Historical Newspapers, the Times (London) Digital Archive and the 17th and 18th Century Burney Collection.

**Primary Sources**

The Library provides access to primary source materials in print and to several major collections of digitized texts. For more information, go to the Primary Sources guide at:

Research by Subject ➔ Primary Sources

Also check the sections on Primary Sources on the history area subject guides.

Some of the digital primary source collections to which the Library subscribes include: Early English Books Online, Eighteenth Century Collections Online, Empire Online, Medieval Travel Writing, Mass Observation Online, Early Encounters in North America, British and Irish Women’s Letters and Diaries, 19th Century U.K. Periodicals to name few.
Other Library Catalogues

WorldCat

If you don’t find what you need in QCAT, try searching other library catalogues, such as WorldCat. WorldCat is a database of library holdings around the world. It can help you identify materials in other libraries which you may then request through Interlibrary Loan.

To access other library catalogues, click on Find Information and then Other Library Catalogues.

Center for Research Libraries

CRL is a rich resource library which acquires and preserves newspapers, journals, documents, archives and other traditional and digital resources from all over the world. It lends its research resources to member institutions (QUL is a member).

Requests to borrow CRL materials should be placed using the regular ILL form (add a note indicating that the material is held at CRL). CRL lends items from its collections for up to one year if there are no other requests for the item.

CRL publishes Topic Guides which survey types of source materials in broad collections areas. For example, there are topical guides on African Studies, Great Britain, Latin American Studies, Medieval Studies, Middle Eastern Studies to name a few.

CRL also publishes focus guides on specific topics, e.g. Colonial India, England in Africa, French Resources.

Students can contact CRL outreach service with a question or problem.

For information about CRL and how to borrow resources, go to:

Research by Subject → Center for Research Libraries

Cited Reference Searching

Citation indexes allow you to trace the evolution of an idea from one author’s paper backward using its bibliography and forward (to determine who is citing whom) using cited reference searching. Consult the library guide for details: Cited Reference Searching in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

How-to & Help → How-To Guides → Cited References

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 an overview of this process, see the guide to Interlibrary Loan & Document Delivery Services.
Purchase Suggestions

The Library welcomes your suggestions for new book purchases and research materials for your research needs. Requests can be sent to your liaison librarian (Elizabeth Gibson) at gibson@queensu.ca.

Theses and Dissertations

Queen’s theses published since 2007 are deposited in QSpace, the Queen’s University Research and Learning Repository (https://qspace.library.queensu.ca/) and may be downloaded free of charge.

Consult the library’s Guide to Finding Theses and Dissertations under Research by Subject for a list of theses and dissertations databases and Open Access Repositories.

Writing Help

Citation and Style Guides

A list of style guides (in print and electronic) used at QUL, e.g MLA, Chicago and more.

How-to and Help → How to Cite Sources

The Writing Centre

http://www.queensu.ca/writingcentre/

Book one-on-one sessions with writing assistants who can help you at any stage in the writing process and check out the section for Graduate Students.

Citation Managers

The volume of information that you will be collecting through your research needs to be managed accurately and efficiently. There are several bibliographical and citation software products on the market, all of which will help you manage your sources and create the styles you will use in notes and bibliographies in your thesis. The most popular ones are RefWorks, EndNote and Zotero.

Queen’s Libraries provide free subscriptions to RefWorks.

Information on other citation managers can be found on the guide How to Cite Sources.

Getting Help

For research questions in general, please ask for help by visiting the Stauffer Research Help Desk, Monday to Friday, 11 am to 4 pm, email us at info@queensu.ca or contact your liaison librarian, Elizabeth Gibson at gibson@queensu.ca.

Fall 2012