The Automobile in American History
History 392

Consider Resources

Primary Resources: letters, speeches, newspaper articles, documents, photos
Secondary Resources: books, journal articles (scholarly vs. popular), theses, the Web

Check subject guide: How-to & Help → Research by Subject → History → American History

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
Encyclopedia of American Studies REF E169.1 .E625
Oxford Companion to United States History (Online)

Find Primary Sources

For information about primary sources, go to:

How-to & Help → Research by Subject → Primary Sources

Although there is no scholarly compendium of original source materials in the field of automotive history, 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 or 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

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....

“united states” and women and history and sources
Also browse subject headings and look for these special subject terms.

Women--United States--History--Sources
Women--United States--Social conditions--Sources

Collections of primary sources can have the word documents 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.

Chrysler Walter
Ford Henry

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

Ford Motor Company
General Motors Corporation

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.

To find out what newspapers the Library has, search QCAT by newspaper title or search by subject heading:

New York N.Y. Newspapers
Toronto Ont Newspapers

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

The Globe and Mail 1844- excluding latest 3-4 years
The Toronto Star 1892- excluding latest 3-4 years

Historical Newspapers including the New York Times (1851-2006), Washington Post (1877-1993), Los Angeles Times (1881-1986) and more...

For more information, check our Newspapers subject guide at:

How-to & Help → Research by Subject → Newspapers

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

19th Century Masterfile

Provides indexing to nineteenth century periodicals, books, newspapers, and government documents published prior to 1925.
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)

Some Journal Titles from the time period:
Advertising Age, 1950 - on microfilm
Canadian Architect, 1955- in print
Ebony, 1955 – on microfilm
Fortune, 1930-1965 in print; on microfilm from 1960-
Harpers, 1850 – in print
Horseless Age, in print in Eng/Science Library from 1910-1916
Ladies Home Journal, online from 1892-1907
Life, 1936-1950 on microfilm; in print from 1951-1972
Maclean's, 1921- in print; on microfilm from 1905-
New Yorker, 1946-1971 in print
Newsweek, 1947- on microfilm
Popular Mechanics, available via Google Books
Saturday Evening Post, online from 1931-
Saturday Night, 1887- on microfilm
Sports Illustrated, 1954- 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 to Friday, 10-11:30 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. or by appointment.

4. Find Images
Images published at the time can be a type of primary source. To locate 20th century images, consult the Finding Images subject guide, which has information about Illustrated Magazines and Online Image Collections.

How-to & Help → Research by Subject → Images
5. Search the Web

Some primary source materials and related websites:

Ad*Access
http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/adaccess/

Historical advertisements printed in U.S. and Canadian newspapers and magazines between 1911 and 1955.

American Memory
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html

A collection of digitized documents, photographs, recordings, motion pictures and text from the Library of Congress Americana collections.

Life Magazine Photo Archive
http://images.google.com/hosted/life

Library of Congress – Prints & Photographs Online Catalog
http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html

The Showroom of Automotive History
http://www.hfmgv.org/exhibits/showroom/intro.html

This site “features significant automobiles of the American experience. Each vehicle has made a substantial contribution to the auto industry in design, production, or engineering.” It includes photographs, advertising, specifications, and related material about specific cars.

Touring Turn-of-the-Century America: Photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company, 1880-1920
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/touring/

Find Secondary Sources

1. Books

To find books on your topic, think of the words that best describe your topic and then connect them with Boolean operators: AND, OR, NOT. For or a selection of books on Henry Ford and automobile production, try these searches:

    automobile? and “united states” and production
    ford henry [search by subject]

Another topic:

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

automobile and (gender or "sex differences" or women)

Search by Subject

Advertising--United States--History
Advertising--Automobiles--History
Advertising copy
Automobile travel--United States--History--20th century
Automobile industry and trade--United States
Automobiles--History
Automobiles--Social aspects--United States--History
Automobiles--United States--History
Consumption (Economics)--United States--History--20th century
Roads--United States--History--20th century
Technology--Social aspects
United States--Description and travel

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--1919-1933
United States--Social life and customs--1918-1945
United States--Social conditions--1960-1980

Note the sub-headings, e.g. History, Social ....

For colourful ads throughout the 20th century, check out the following books:

20s: all-American ads
30s: all-American ads
40s: all-American ads
50s: all-American ads
60s: all-American ads
70s: all-American ads

2. E-Books

The library subscribes to a number of e-book packages. Three packages that are of interest to history students are: ACLS Humanities E-Book, ebrary, and MyiLibrary.

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 databases to find scholarly articles:

→ America: History and Life: 1954 - present

Also Useful:

- Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective: 1907 - 1984
- Academic Search Complete: coverage varies
- Gender Studies Database: 1972 -
- Sociological Abstracts: 1952 -

To search indexes, click Databases under the heading, Find Information or under the section, Find Articles.

America: History and Life covers the history of Canada and the United States from prehistoric times to the present. It indexes articles from approximately 2,000 journals, selected books and dissertations.

Search: (women or female) and automobile*
Modify to search Subject: (women or gender) and automobiles

To find out if Queen's subscribes to the journal, click on Get It! @ Queen's.

Queen's Library subscribes to about 58,000 full text e-journals via various publishers' packages. Search QCAT to find them. One collection that is of particular interest to history students is JSTOR, a digitized collection of articles from key periodicals (about 170 history titles are indexed), excluding the most current 2 to 5 years of a title. JSTOR → http://www.jstor.org

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. Under Services, click Borrowing From Other Libraries, and then RACER. 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://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/search-web)

![Google Advanced Search](http://www.google.ca/advanced_search?hl=en)

...offers a variety of ways to structure a more precise search and to improve the efficiency of your search results. To search academic sites, enter in the domain field, e.g.: .edu, .ac.uk, .mcgill.ca.

women automobility site:.edu

![Google books](http://books.google.ca/)

...search 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.

...search and browse magazines through Google Books Search.

![Google Scholar](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:**

Find Information → All Types → Websites → Evaluate Websites
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.

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Learning and Research Services
Stauffer Library
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