

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)

Columbia Chronicles of American Life, 1910-1992 REF E169.1 .G664 1995

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:

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature: 1900 - present (REF AI3.R2)

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

PAIS: 1915 - present (Online)

Canadian Periodical Index: 1920-1998 (REF AI3.C2)

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.hfmvg.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

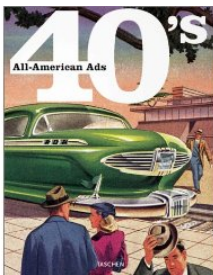
Advertising--United States--History
Advertising--Automobiles--History
Advertising copy
Automobile travel--United States--History--20th century
Automobile industry and trade--United States
Automobiles--History
Automobiles--Social aspects--United States--History
Automobiles--United States--History
Consumption (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.

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

...offers a variety of ways to structure a more precise search and 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



<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.



<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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