

## GUIDE TO RESEARCH IN AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1865

### I. SEARCHING THE ONLINE CATALOG

Search the library's online catalog to find the title and location of materials in the library. The link to the online catalog is available from the library web site <http://www.sunysccc.edu/library>. Select **Find Books/Media** and **Find Books/Media in This Library**. Type your keyword in the **Basic Keyword Search** text box and select **Subject** as the field to search. Examples of specific subject entries that appear in our catalog are listed below.

<b>United States History Colonial Period</b>	<b>Thomas Jefferson</b>
<b>American Revolution</b>	<b>James Madison</b>
<b>Indians of North America Government Relations</b>	<b>United States History War of 1812</b>
<b>United States History Civil War</b>	<b>Frederick Douglass</b>
<b>Confederate States of America</b>	<b>Abolitionists</b>

If your search retrieves a large number of results, narrow them down by choosing a relevant title, and then clicking on a subject heading in the full record. Books on American history are located on the second floor of the library.

### II. ELECTRONIC BOOKS

The online catalog contains links to full-text electronic books. In order to access these books from home you will need to set up a **NetLibrary** account from a computer in the library. Ask a librarian if you need assistance.

### III. REFERENCE

Reference books are located on the first floor of the library. Some recommended sources include:

#### **General**

<i>American National Biography</i>	REF CT 213 .A68 1999
<i>The Great American History Fact-Finder</i>	REF E174 .C67 2004
<i>Dictionary of American History</i> , vols. 1-7 (1776) & 2 vol. supplement (1996)	REF E 174 .D52 1776 & 1996
<i>The Oxford Companion to United States History</i>	REF E 174 .O94 2001
<i>The Reader's Companion to American History</i>	REF E174 .R43 1991
<i>The American Presidents</i>	REF E176 .1 .A6563 2000
<i>History of American Presidential Elections</i>	REF E183 .H58 1985
<i>Historical Statistics of the United States:</i> <i>Colonial Times to 1970</i> , Parts 1 & 2	REF HA 202 .B87 1975
<i>Encyclopedia of American Social History</i> , vols. 1-3	REF HN 57 .E58 1993
<i>Encyclopedia of the American Constitution</i> , vols. 1-6	REF KF 4548 .E53 2000

### **Specific**

*Encyclopedia of Battles in North America, 1517 to 1916* REF E46.5 .P87 2000  
*African-American History in the Press,*  
1851-1899, vols. 1-2 REF E185.2 .A25 1996  
*The Historical Atlas of the American Revolution* REF E208 .B36 2000  
*James Madison and the American Nation, 1751-1836:*  
*An Encyclopedia* REF E 342 .J36 1994  
*Slavery in America: from Colonial Times to the Civil War* REF E441 .S36 2000  
*Documents of American Indian Diplomacy:*  
*Treaties, Agreements, and Conventions,*  
1775-1979, vols. 1 & 2 REF KF 8202 1999

## **IV. ELECTRONIC DATABASES: PERIODICALS AND REFERENCE**

Electronic databases may be used to find full-text articles in journals, newspapers, and reference sources. The databases are available online via the library web site <http://www.sunysccc.edu/library>. Select the link **Find Articles** followed by the link **Databases by Subject**. Choose the **History** option which lists the following databases:

**HarpWeek**  
**New York Times full text archive (1851 – 2001)**  
**Virtual Reference Library (Gale)**

Other databases to consider include:

**Academic Search Premier (EBSCO)**  
**ArticleFirst (OCLC)**

## **V. INTERNET**

Some reliable sites for historical research include:

Documents for the Study of American History, from the University of Kansas  
<http://www.vlib.us/amdocs/>

Documents in Law, History, and Diplomacy, from Yale Law School  
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/avalon.htm>

Presidents Index  
<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/P/>

White House Guide to the Presidents  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/index.html>

The History Cooperative – provides online access to 8 scholarly historical journals  
<http://www.historycooperative.org/>

American Indian History, from California State University, Long Beach  
<http://www.csulb.edu/projects/ais/>

Spy Letters from the American Revolution, from the University of Michigan  
<http://www.si.umich.edu/spies/>

Civil War Resources on the Internet: Abolitionism to Reconstruction (1830's – 1890's)  
from Rutgers University Libraries  
[http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/rr\\_gateway/research\\_guides/history/civwar.shtml](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/rr_gateway/research_guides/history/civwar.shtml)

## VI. MEDIA

Media materials are located on the first floor of the library and in the Instructional Technology Center on the second floor. Ask a librarian for help in finding items of interest.

## VII. LIBRARIANS

**Reference Librarians** will be happy to help you locate materials for your topic in this library and in other libraries. Please ask for assistance at the Reference Desk. You may also **email** or **chat live** with a librarian via the Begley Library web site at <http://www.sunysccc.edu/library>. Select the link **Ask a Librarian**.