Age of Jackson
History 335

Consider Resources

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

Go to the Research by Subject link on the Library's home page to find subject guides which will help you begin your research in history through the library's collections and beyond. Guides to check out include: History; History by Region: American and British; and Primary Sources...

Find Background Information

Check the sections in the Research by Subject guides labelled Reference Resources, Dictionaries and Encyclopedias. These titles will help you find definitions, introduction to key issues, dates, events, noted persons, and often bibliographical references.

Find Primary Sources

There is an abundance of primary source material. The form will vary from topic to topic. It may be a diary, correspondence, newspaper accounts, a law, a debate, etc. from the period of study, as well as electronic, microfilm, and printed collections of these documents at a later date.

For general information about primary sources, go to the Research by Subject guide, Primary Sources and also check the primary sources link on the American History subject guide plus course guide.

1. Use QCAT

The Library catalogue is a good place to start your search for primary source materials.

A. Search by Subject or Keyword

You can locate items in the library by searching QCAT and 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 ....

(“anti slavery” or antislavery) and movement and “united states” and sources

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

Antislavery movements--United States--19th century--Sources
Abolitionists--United States--Correspondence

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 for memoirs, diaries, and correspondence. For example: Jackson, Andrew.

Also look up groups/organizations as an author. For example: American Anti-Slavery Society.
2. Use Journal and Newspaper Indexes Covering the Time Period

To find out what newspapers the Library has, search QCAT by newspaper title or search by subject heading, e.g. boston mass newspapers

We have access to the following full text electronic newspapers for the studied time period via the link, Databases which include the Paper of Record and The Times Digital Archive (London).

For more information re historical newspapers, check our Newspapers subject guide.

To locate 19th century periodical literature, consult the following index, 19th Century Masterfile and the full text databases, Periodicals Archive Online and Accessible Archives.

3. Use Government Documents

Publications generated by a government body, public records, reports and statistics are excellent sources of primary materials. For information about the American congressional and legislative documents, check this page at http://library.queensu.ca/gov/united_states Also check the following link for historic documents: http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html

Reference assistance is available by contacting Graeme Campbell at graeme.campbell@queensu.ca

4. Use Special Collections and the University Archives

Visit the W.D. Jordan Special Collections Library located in Douglas Library as well as the University Archives in Kathleen Ryan Hall.

5. Search the Web

Primary source materials and related websites can be freely searched on the Web as well as the links below that lead you to websites for which the Library pays.

Access the following via the Databases tab:

- Black Thought and Culture: African Americans from Colonial Times to the Present
- North American Women’s Letters and Diaries: Colonial to 1950
- Slavery Abolition and Social Justice, 1490-2007
- Women and Social Movements in the United States 1600-2000

There are thousands of collections of primary sources on the web. Some provide access to online versions of sources which may be digitized images, facsimiles or full text.

To search for them, use a search engine, e.g. Google and utilize similar search terms you use searching QCAT.

"primary sources" antislavery movement site:.edu

Also see course guide for a selection of websites and the American History - Primary Sources subject guide.
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 example, your topic is on the growth of the antislavery movement.

For this search, you could search: antislavery and movement and "united states". Select useful titles and look at the subject headings. Use them to provide more keyword ideas or as individual searches themselves.

(antislavery or abolitionists) and movements and "united states"

Search by Subject

Abolitionists United States History 19th century
Antislavery movements United States History 19th century
Free Soil Party
Liberty Party
Slavery Political aspects United States History 19th century
Southern states History 19th century
Women abolitionists United States history 19th century
Women Political activity History

2. Articles

Use the following electronic journal database to find scholarly articles:

→ America: History and Life: 1954 - present
→ Historical Abstracts: 1954 - present

Also check out more indexes to search by going to the American History subject guides and then click the link, Article Indexes.

To search indexes, click the tab Databases and enter the title of the database. For example, search America: History and Life for articles on the nullification crisis.

Search: nullification crisis
Revise search: nullification states rights OR states rights American politics [search as subject]

To find out if Queen's subscribes to the journal, click Get It! @ Queen's if full text not readily available.

3. Summon

With Summon, you can search, discover and access information on any topic from the Queen's Library collections which includes 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.

**Search Other Library Catalogues**

If you don’t find what you need in QCAT and Summon, try searching other library catalogues, using WorldCat, 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 homepage.

**Search the Web**

Google Advanced Search [www.google.ca/advanced_search](http://www.google.ca/advanced_search)

Google Scholar [scholar.google.ca/](http://scholar.google.ca/)

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).

**Evaluate Websites**

Anyone can create a webpage so it is particularly important to analyze and assess information found 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 webpage:

- How-to & Help → How-To Guides → Finding → Web: Evaluate

**Evaluate Sources**

Check our Evaluating Sources page for criteria on how to judge information sources.

**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. It is also available online via the link, Databases.

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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