

HIS 400 (American History Seminar) -- History Research

HOW TO FIND BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON YOUR TOPIC:

Search for your topic in [World Book Web](http://libezp.msj.edu/login?url=http://www.worldbookonline.com) <http://libezp.msj.edu/login?url=http://www.worldbookonline.com> .

In [OhioLINK Electronic Reference Books](http://rave.ohiolink.edu/ebooks/reference/home) <http://rave.ohiolink.edu/ebooks/reference/home> search in **Chapter Title** or **Book Title** for your topic. At the results display, click on the **table of contents** to locate information within the book. The full text of the reference book is available online.

To find handbooks and encyclopedias in the Archbishop Alter Library's **Reference Collection**, do a **Subject** or **Key word** search in [FOCUS](http://focus.msj.edu/) <http://focus.msj.edu/>. Click on **Limit** and select **WHERE item is located: REFERENCE (1ST FLOOR)**.

HOW TO FIND BOOKS ABOUT YOUR TOPIC:

In [FOCUS](http://focus.msj.edu/), do a **Keyword** search for your topic. Scroll through the list of search results and find the title of an item on your topic. Click on the **Title**. At the record display, scroll down to see the Subject(s) for that item. Click on a **Subject** to search FOCUS for other items (books, videos, etc.).

If no items are found in FOCUS, connect to [OhioLINK Library Catalog](http://olc1.ohiolink.edu/search/) <http://olc1.ohiolink.edu/search/>.

To get items from OhioLINK, click on **REQUEST THIS ITEM** and follow the on-screen instructions.

Other places to look for books are the [Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County](http://www.cincinnati.org) <http://www.cincinnati.org> and [WorldCat](http://libezp.msj.edu/login?url=http://newfirstsearch.oclc.org/dbname=WorldCat;done=referer;FSIP) <http://libezp.msj.edu/login?url=http://newfirstsearch.oclc.org/dbname=WorldCat;done=referer;FSIP> .

To get books that are not listed in FOCUS or OhioLINK, complete an [Interlibrary Loan Request Form](https://zap2.library.colostate.edu/zap/Entry.cgi?Affiliation=cmj) <https://zap2.library.colostate.edu/zap/Entry.cgi?Affiliation=cmj>.

HOW TO FIND BOOK REVIEWS:

Search [Academic Search Premier](http://libezp.msj.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=aph) <http://libezp.msj.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=aph>, and limit to **Document Type: Book Review**.

For more information about authors and books, connect to [Literary Reference Center](http://libezp.msj.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?profile=LRC) <http://libezp.msj.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?profile=LRC> .

HOW TO FIND JOURNAL ARTICLES ABOUT YOUR TOPIC:

Connect to [America: History and Life](http://rave.ohiolink.edu/databases/login/ahnl) <http://rave.ohiolink.edu/databases/login/ahnl> and follow the on-screen instructions for searching the database. Magazine and journal articles may also be located by searching [Academic Search Premier](#).

If the database does not provide the full text, do a **title** search in [FOCUS](#) for the journal title. This will tell you if the Archbishop Alter Library has the journal, the dates held, and where it is located.

If the article is not available in the Archbishop Alter Library, you may request a photocopy of the article from another library by completing an [Interlibrary Loan Request Form](#).

HOW TO FIND PRIMARY SOURCES IN AMERICAN HISTORY:

Search [American Periodical Series Online](#)

<http://libezp.msj.edu/login?url=http://proquest.umi.com/login?COPT=SU5UPTAmVkVSPTImREJTPTEONEQ@&clientId=3338><http://proquest.umi.com/login?COPT=SU5UPTAmVkVSPTImREJTPTEONEQ@&clientId=3338> for digitized images of the pages of magazines and journals published 1740 through the early 1900's.

Search [HarpWeek](#) <http://libezp.msj.edu/login?url=http://app.harpweek.com/> for digitized images of pages from *Harper's Weekly* published 1857 through 1871.

Other primary sources, (images and documents), are available online at the [OhioLINK Digital Media Center's Historic & Archival Collections](#) <http://worlddmc.ohiolink.edu/History/Login> database. Current collections are historic maps of Akron and Summit County, Lake Erie's Yesterday, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, E. W. Scripps Paper 1868-1926 and Wright Brothers Collection.

HOW TO FIND A WEB SITE ABOUT YOUR TOPIC:

Connect to www.google.com or www.bing.com .

Some sites on your results list may not be relevant or appropriate for this project. Here are some things to think about when evaluating web sites:

- Who created this site?
- What are the author's credentials? Is he or she a student, an expert in the field, or just an enthusiast?
- What is the perspective of the information being presented?

To find out about a Web site:

- Look closely at the URL to determine where the Web page is located.
- Look at the top or bottom of the Web page for institution name, author, creation date, etc.
- Look for links to the home page for more information.
- Refer to [Evaluating Information Sources](#) for other tips.

Please ask a Librarian at the Research & Instruction Desk if you have **any** questions: 513-244-4307.