



*A guide to finding information in the Roberts-LaForge Library*

## Subject Guide to American History

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### Browsing the American History Collection

The call number headings for American history are E and F. In the event that you do not find what you are looking for by simply browsing, please consult the online catalog. Below is a table of the Library of Congress Classification scheme for American history.

E 11-143	America	E 660-738	Late Nineteenth Century
E 75-99	North American Indians	E 740-837	Twentieth Century
E 101-135	Discovery of America	E 784-805	The Twenties (Harding-Coolidge Era)
E 151-887	United States	E 838-887	Later Twentieth Century, 1961-
E 300-453	Revolution to Civil War	F 1-975	United States Local History
E 456-655	Civil War Period, 1861-1865	F 336-350	Mississippi History

### Selected Reference Books

#### *General*

- 📖 **American Eras** [E 169.1 .A471979 1997 10 volumes Ref] – Covers different topics such as people, government, lifestyles, religion, war, exploration, science, and arts over the span of seven eras of American history.
- 📖 **American Heritage Encyclopedia of American History**[E 174 .A535 1998 Ref] – Brief entries on major U.S. history topics. Bibliography, appendices, U.S. documents, and presidential facts are included as well.
- 📖 **Dictionary of American History** [E 174 .D52 2003 10 vols. Ref] – Illustrated ten-volume work on United States history. Over 2,000 articles on all facets of the country’s history: social, political, and economical topics are all covered. Cross references and bibliographies are available for each entry.
- 📖 **Directory of American Scholars** [LA 2311 .C32 1999 5 vols. Ref] – Volume 1 contains all scholars in the field of history. Each entry contains personal and professional data as well as research interests and publications.
- 📖 **Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates** [E 174.5 .C3 1993 Ref] – Chronological and concurrent entries on America’s most interesting facts.
- 📖 **Great Events From History: North American Series** [E 45 .G74 1997 4 volumes Ref] – Events that historians generally accept as being significant to understanding the nation’s past.
- 📖 **Guide to Reference Books** [Z 1035.1 .G89 1996 Ready Ref] – Find the perfect reference source with this guide. All relevant encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, almanacs, bibliographies, and indexes are listed for each subject area. All reference works on history are in Section D.
- 📖 **The Historian’s Toolbox** [D 16. W62 2003 Ref] – Overview of the theory, craft, and tools of history.
- 📖 **Reader’s Guide to American History** [E178 .R43 1997 Ref] – Over 600 topics covered in this volume. Each entry consists of a bibliography and brief essay assessing the quality of literature available on the specific topic.
- 📖 **Reference Sources in History** [D 20 .F72 2004 Ref] – This ideal source for history students functions exactly as the *Guide to Reference Books* except that it is solely concentrated on history. The long descriptions and numerous categories easily guide students to the necessary sources.

## Biographies

- 📖 **American National Biography** [CT213 .A68 1999 Ref, 24 volumes, Index Table 2] – Profiles 17,500 historical figures from the earliest recorded European explorations up to the recent past.
- 📖 **The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography (Permanent Series)** [E 176 .N28 Ref] – Extensive biographies of deceased Americans from all walks of life: businessmen, politicians, educators, writers, etc. Illustrations and signatures accompany most entries. One of the largest collections of biographies available in Roberts-LaForge Library.

## Indexes/Bibliographies

- 📖 **AHA Guide to Historical Literature** [Z 6201 .A55 1995 2 vols. Ref] – Comprehensive annotated bibliography of all pertinent books and articles on every conceivable field of history. Sections 39-44 focus on United States history.
- 📖 **America: History and Life** (1970-1998) – Article abstracts and citations of reviews and dissertations covering the United States and Canada from discovery to present day. The index is divided into six sections: *North America, Canada, United States of America (to 1945), United States of America (to present), U.S. Regional, State, and Local History, and History, the Humanities, and Social Sciences.*
- 📖 **Combined Retrospective Index to Book Reviews in Scholarly Journals 1886-1974** [Index Table 6] – Arranged alphabetically by author. Title volumes are available as well.
- 📖 **Combined Retrospective Index to Journals in History 1838-1974** [Index Counter] – Indexes nearly 1,000 journals. Each major subject is divided into subtopics. Articles under each subtopic are arranged by keyword. Great for finding older articles not available through the databases.
- 📖 **Harvard Guide to American History** [Z 1236 .F77 1974 2 vols. Ref] – A standard in the field, this exhaustive guide provides annotations for sources arranged in 56 categories.
- 📖 **Humanities Index** (1974-1997) – Index of articles, interviews, bibliographies, and book reviews on all areas of the humanities including music, art, philosophy, and history.

## Statistics

- 📖 **County and City Data Book** [HA 202 .A36 Year Ref] – Compiled from several federal agencies, this source contains county and city-level statistics on a number of subject areas. Contains recent data from Census 2000 and the 1997 Economic Census. Also online at <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/ccdb.html>.
- 📖 **Datapedia of the United States: 1790-2005** [HA202 .K87 2001 Ref] – Offers broad overview of statistics, combining parts of the *Historical Statistics of the United States* with contemporary data from *Statistical Abstracts*.
- 📖 **Historical Statistics of the United States: Earliest Times to the Present** [HA202 .H57 Ref, 5 volumes] – Contains statistics in areas of labor, population, economy, society, and agriculture. An annotated bibliography of all consulted sources is at the beginning of each section. The Reference Department also holds the bicentennial edition of this work.
- 📖 **Statistical Abstracts of the United States** [HA202 .U5 1964, 71, 76-present Ref] – First place to look for statistics. Published annually by the Census Bureau, *Statistical Abstracts* contains over 1500 tables of statistics gathered from all agencies and other organizations. Source information is provided at the bottom of each table for further study. Available online at <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/statab.html>.

## Selected Databases

- 📖 **History Reference Center** [EBSCOhost] <sup>Off Campus Full text</sup> – Full-text collection of reference books, magazines, biographies, and images.
- 📖 **Humanities International Complete** [EBSCOhost] <sup>Off Campus Full Text</sup> -- Covering all areas of the humanities, this database provides full-text coverage of books, journals, and other publications.
- 📖 **JSTOR** (1800s-Present) <sup>Off-campus</sup> – Full text coverage of sixteen journals including *American Historical Review*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Southern History*, and *William and Mary Quarterly*. Go to JSTOR to see a complete listing.
- 📖 **Dissertation Abstracts** (1861-present) <sup>Off-campus</sup> – Indexes and abstracts doctoral dissertations accepted at accredited institutions in the United States. Selectively covers master's theses and dissertations from

international universities. Abstracts are available online from 1980-present. 1861-1979 is index only. Roberts-LaForge holds the print version from 1968-2000.

## Selected Web Sites

- ☞ **American and British History Resources on the Internet** [[http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/tr\\_gateway/research\\_guides/history/history.shtml](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/tr_gateway/research_guides/history/history.shtml)] – Provides links to scholarly resources of American and British history on the Internet. The site contains several searchable categories including reference sources, archival guides, and Internet sources broken down by time period and subject.
- ☞ **American Memory: Historical Collections for the National Digital Library** [<http://memory.loc.gov>] – Over 80 multimedia collections of unique digitized documents, photographs, recorded sound, moving pictures, and text from the Library of Congress's Americana collections.
- ☞ **Biography of America** [<http://www.learner.org/biographyofamerica>] – The “companion web site to the video series and telecourse,” of the same name covers the nation’s history from discovery to present day. For each era, *Biography* provides key events, an interactive map, a full transcript of the video presentation including interviews with numerous scholars, a bibliography of related web sites, and an interactive section which requires Flash software. For a single Web site, there is an unbelievable wealth of information. Teachers especially could find so many positive ways of using this site in the classroom. History students will also find the site valuable and informative.
- ☞ **Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation (1774-1875)** [<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>] – An ambitious project by the Library of Congress, this site provides digitized copies of the *Journals of the Continental Congress*, *Letters of Delegates to Congress 1774-1789*, *The Debates in the Several State Conventions on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution*, *The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787*, *Statutes at Large*, the *American State Papers* (legislative and executive documents of Congress during the period 1789 to 1838), the *U.S. Serial Set*, journals of Congress (proceedings), and debates of Congress including *Annals of Congress*, *Register of Debates*, *Congressional Globe*, and the *Congressional Record*. An essential site for those doing research on the first hundred years of the country.
- ☞ **Documenting the American South** [<http://docsouth.unc.edu>] – Large collection of primary sources on Southern history, literature and culture, created by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Over 734 books and manuscripts are available online.
- ☞ **Historical Text Archive** [<http://historicaltextarchive.com>] – A collection of Internet sources, articles, and books covering all periods and regions of the world. “Articles” may be articles, primary documents, or photographs. Sources can be found either through the browsable lists or the search box located in the top left corner of the page. Other important U.S. documents not in HTA may be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdoxmainpg.html>.