Resources for...
American History

CHOOSE YOUR TOPIC

1. Consult a general encyclopedia under *United States History* for a general outline and ideas. Use the encyclopedia’s index for specific topics.

2. Look in WILO (the online catalog) for books under the LC Subject: *United States -- History -- Chronology* for books to help you choose a topic.

3. Consult the *Library of Congress Subject Headings* to see what subject headings the library uses when referring to your topic. Located across from the Reference Desk.

4. Use an *Electronic Database*. Use the subject list on the Online Databases page on the computer and scroll down to the heading of History.

FIND INFORMATION ON YOUR TOPIC

a. *United States History*

   Look in WILO (the online catalog) under the LC Subject *United States -- History*. This subject is further divided by time periods. Most of the books will use the 973 call no.

b. *Biographies* -- call no. for this section is 92, further arranged alphabetically by whom the book is about. Located on the first floor.

   *Biography Reference Bank* (Electronic Database)

c. *Indians of North America* -- call nos. are 970.1 and 970.3.

   *American Indian History Online* (Electronic Database)

d. *Local History* -- call no. is 977.84 and see *Special Collection* (ask at Reference Desk).

   *Vertical File - Kansas City Area* - Located across from Reference Desk.

   *Kansas City: an American story* (Ref. 977.84 M76k)

e. *Chronologies* -- major historical events presented in order by the date they occurred.

   *American Decades* (Ref. 973.9 Am3d)

   *American Eras* (Ref. 973.1 Am35e—Ref. 973.8 Am35e)

   *History Resource Center: U.S.* (Electronic Database) Click “Chronology.”

f. *Dictionaries and encyclopedias*

   *Encyclopedia of the New American Nation* (Ref. 973.03 En19n)


   *History Resource Center: U.S* (Electronic Database)
g. **Specialized dictionaries and encyclopedias**
   - Colonial America (Ref. 973.203 C718)
   - Encyclopedia Latina (Ref. 973.0468 En19)
   - The Seventies in America (Ref. 973.924 Se82a)
   - Tiller's Guide to Indian Country (Ref. 970.1 T46t 2005)
   - African American Studies Center (Electronic Database)
   - American Women's History Online (Electronic Database)

h. **Statistics**
   - Historical Statistics of the United States (Ref. 317.3 Un3h 2006)
   - Historical Statistics of Black America (Ref. 973.0496 H629)

i. **Historical Atlases**
   - National Geographic Historical Atlas of the United States (Ref. 911.73 F53n)
   - Historical Atlas of the United States (Ref. 911.73 H629)
   - Curriculum Resource Center (Electronic Database) Click “History,”
     Defaults to U.S. History, Click “Maps and Charts” tab

j. **Primary Source Material** -- Look in WILO (the online catalog) under the LC Subject
   - United States -- History -- Sources
   - Documents of American History (Ref. Desk 973 C73d-10)
   - American Decades Primary Sources (Ref. 973.9 Am3dp)
   - Greenwood Daily Life Online & World Cultures Today (Electronic Database)

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**FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**PERIODICALS**
Find articles in periodicals -- Periodicals are newspapers, magazines and journals.
- **American Heritage Magazine** - Past issues are located by the Bound Periodicals sign on
  the first floor. Consult the American Heritage Cumulative index to find articles on your
  subject.
- **Historical New York Times Online** (Electronic Database) Full text articles from 1851-
  2003.
- **JSTOR** (Electronic Database) Full text journal articles dating back to the 1800s.

**GENEALOGY**
- **Heritage Quest Online** (Electronic Database)

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**OTHER RESOURCES**
Several libraries in the metro area have special collections concerning
local history. The following list contains a few suggestions.

   Click “Kansas Collection.”

   Click “Research Resources,” then choose “Local History” from the menu.


d. Mid Continent Library [http://www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/](http://www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/)  
   Click “Genealogy & Family History.”