

American History Pathfinder



Library Catalog

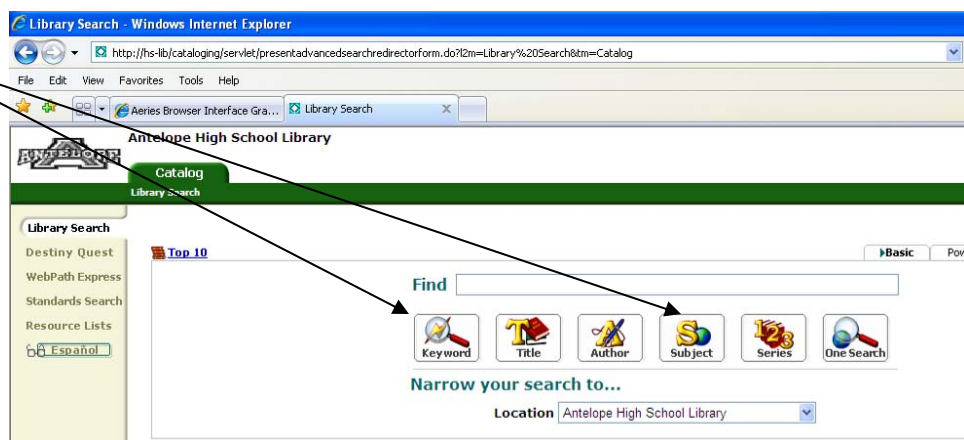
After you know what your research questions are, your first step is to hit the card catalog! This will search for both books in our library and websites about your topic.

Possible Search Key Words for American History Topics

- ✓ Type in your topic and try both *subject* and *keyword* searches.
- ✓ Check out the list of books about U.S. History by going to “Resource Lists” on the left side of the page and choose “U.S. History.”
- ✓ Most topics also have “Webpath Express” results—results with a little  icon next to them. These are all pre-screened reliable websites for your topic! Just type in your search term and look for the  icon.

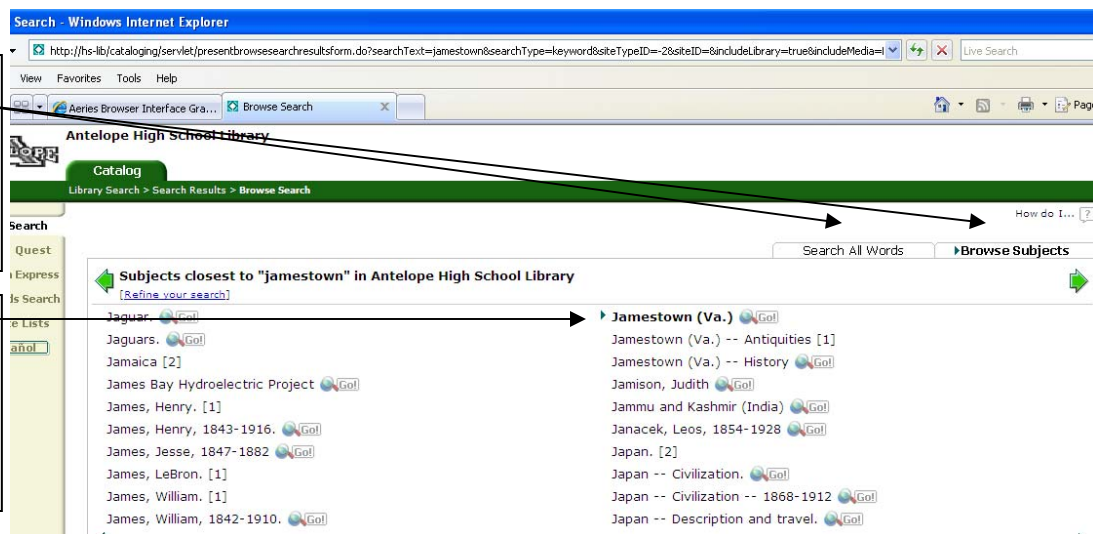
Dewey range for general American history information is **973-979**.
(Be sure to check the **Reference collection**, too!)

Search by “Keyword”
and “Subject”



Click on both the
“Browse
Subjects” AND
the “Search All
Words” for max
results.

Click on any
result with the
 icon to get
to the list of
reliable websites



Databases

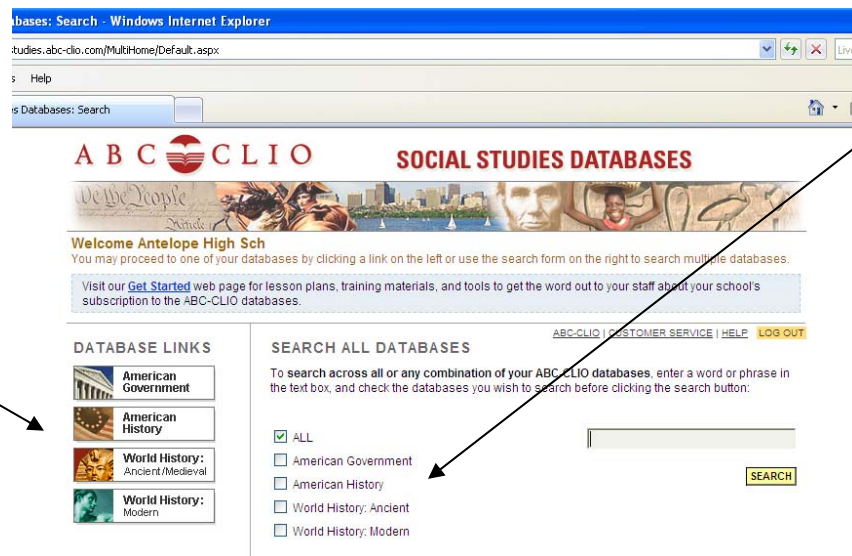
Check out our library's databases first!! They have tons of reliable information about your topics, including **PRINT SOURCES** like magazine articles and articles from books, as well as multimedia content (video, images, etc.). Databases are the next best thing to books. 😊

ABC-CLIO

This database is devoted to historical topics—*perfect* for this research project. Yippee!!

****To logon, go to <http://socialstudies.abc-clio.com>**

Username and password information is available at the circulation desk in the library.

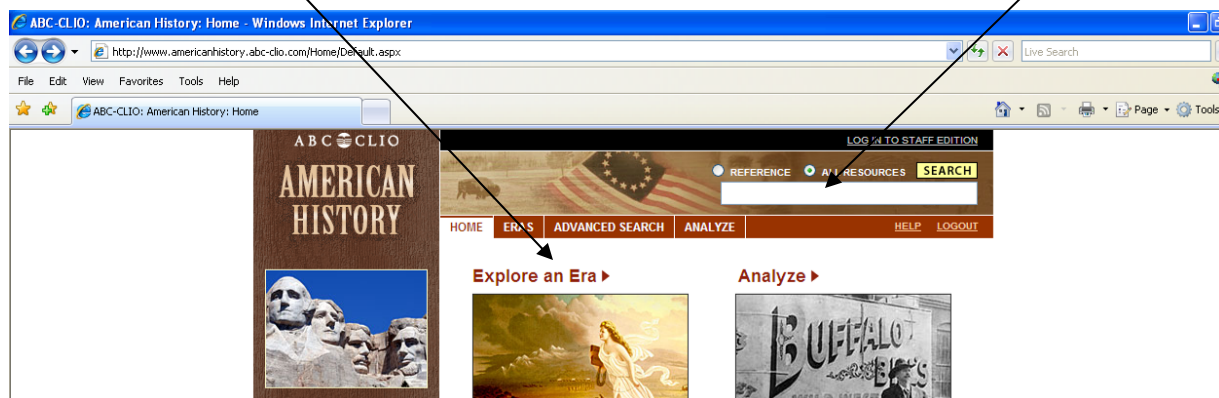


You can go directly to a specific area of the database by clicking one of the links on the left.

You can check one or more of the areas to search multiple areas at the same time.

Not sure what area your topic will appear? Check "All" and it will search all of the historical areas.

If you go directly to a specific area of the database, you can either type in your topic directly or go to the "Explore an Era" link to go to a list of hyperlinked topics arranged by era.



Gale

This is another excellent resource that includes historical topics, but also has information on just about anything else, too. Unless your topic is controversial in some way, choose the **Student Resource Center—Silver** database (the one with the apple) after you logon.

**To logon, go to <http://infotrac.galegroup.com/default>

Username and password information is available at the circulation desk in the library.

The screenshot shows the Gale Student Resource Center Silver Basic Search page. Three callout boxes provide instructions:

- Box 1 (top left):** "Having trouble figuring out the right search term? Go to 'Subject Guide' and type in possible terms to discover what term(s) this database uses for your topic." An arrow points to the 'Subject Guide' link in the top navigation bar.
- Box 2 (middle left):** "You can simply type in your search term in the 'Find' bar." An arrow points to the 'Find:' search input field.
- Box 3 (bottom left):** "You can go directly to a list of searchable topics related to U.S. History by clicking the 'U.S. History' link." An arrow points to the 'U.S. History' link in the bottom navigation bar.

The interface includes a 'Basic Search' section with a 'Find:' field, radio buttons for 'Subject', 'Keyword', and 'Entire document', and a 'Limit the results:' section with checkboxes for 'to document with images', 'by content level' (Basic, Intermediate, Advanced), and 'by content type' (Academic Journals, Creative Works, Magazines, Multimedia, News, Primary Sources, Reference). A 'Hide search options' link is also present. On the right, there is a list of 'popular topics' including Abortion, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Affirmative action, Afghanistan, AIDS (Disease), Alcoholism, Anatomy, Angelou, Maya, Anorexia nervosa, Astronomy, Austen, Jane, Biology, Cancer, Capital punishment, The Catcher in the Rye (Novel), Cells (Biology), Censorship, Chemistry, Child abuse, China, Civil rights, Cloning, Cold War, 1945-1991, Communism, Computers, The Crucible (Play), Dickens, Charles, Dickinson, Emily, Diseases, Disney, Walt, DNA, Drug abuse, Equi, Endangered species, Hurricanes, India, Industrial Revolution, ca. 1750-1900, Inventions, Iraq, Japan, Julius Caesar (Play), King, Martin Luther, Jr., King, Stephen, Leonardo da Vinci, Lincoln, Abraham, Lord of the Flies (Novel), Macbeth (Play), Malcolm X, Marijuana, Mathematics, Mexico, Native Americans, Obama, Barack, Obesity, Of Mice and Men (Novel), Paris, Rosa, Pearl Harbor Attack, 1941, Poe, Edgar Allan, Pollution, Racism, Recession, Religion, Renaissance, Romeo and Juliet (Play), and The Scarlet Letter.

Have a Public Library Card??

With your library card number and PIN, you'll have access to

over 40 additional databases!!

On the Sacramento Public Library website (<http://www.saclibrarycatalog.org/screens/databases.html>), check out the following links:

- ✓ Magazines and Newspapers
- ✓ Academic Journals
- ✓ Biography Resource Center
- ✓ Student Resource Center Gold
- ✓ Virtual Reference Library
- ✓ Who's Who in American History

On the Roseville Public Library website (http://www.roseville.ca.us/library/online_databases_n_resources.asp), check out the following links:

- ✓ Gale PowerPacks
- ✓ Gale Virtual Reference Library
- ✓ InfoTrac General OneFile
- ✓ InfoTrac Student Edition K-12
- ✓ NewsBank

A Hint About Searching for General/Open Websites ☺

You can specify with Google which domains you want the search engine to return (.gov or .edu., for example).

Just click the little link to the right of the search bar that says, “Advanced Search.” Then, at the bottom of the search box is a place you can type in which domain(s) you want Google to search.

General/Open Websites

Internet Public Library: <http://www.ipl.org/>

A searchable collection of websites screened by librarians and information specialists.
Think of it like Google—only with 100% reliable results!

Library of Congress American Memory: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

An amazing array of digitized historical documents, photographs, sound recordings, film, books, and more from the Library of Congress.

Outline of American History: <http://www.america.gov/publications/books/history-outline.html>

Kind of like it says: an outline of American history.

Our Documents: <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/index.php?flash=true&>

See digitized copies of the actual documents that have shaped our nation’s history—primary sources, anyone? Also includes a transcript of the document and brief explanations of its history and importance.

National Archives: <http://www.archives.gov/>

Digitized copies of important documents from the U.S. Federal government. Click on the “Subject Index” at the top of the page if you’re not sure what to type in the search bar.

Mr. Draper’s Website List

Calisphere: (primary source documents and photographs)

<http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

Library of Congress: (digital collections)

<http://www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html>

Library of Congress: (memory project)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

National Archives:

<http://www.archives.gov/index.html>

The American Presidency Project:

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/index.php>

Historical Census Browser: (fact finder)

<http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/>

The Avalon Project: (primary source documents)

<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/default.asp>

Harper’s Weekly Magazine: (great political cartoons, articles from 1857-1902)

<http://www.harpweek.com/>

Newspaper Archive:

<http://www.newspaperarchive.com/>

AP Student.com: (good online documents/outlines/breakdowns)

<http://www.apstudent.com/>

U.S. Almanac: (good reference)

<http://www.infoplease.com/us.html>