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!)

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**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](http://socialstudies.abc-clio.com)

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

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.

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.
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.

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**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!

   An amazing array of digitized historical documents, photographs, sound recordings, film, books, and more from the Library of Congress.

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

   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)

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.president.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