

Tips for American Biography Research First Semester

Step #1: Print Materials

Find in-depth information from books and materials in the library. Use the Online Catalog to search for materials and use the ones suggested below. <http://lhswildcats.org/library>

Browsing the Shelves	Call Number
Native Americans	970.004
General American History	973
Colonial America	973.2
Revolutionary America	973.3
Early American Democracy	973.4
Civil War	973.6 to 973.8
Late 1900s	973.82
Title of Reference Books	Call Number
<i>Great Lives 17th Century</i>	Ref 909.6 Great
<i>Great Lives 18th Century</i>	Ref 909.70 Great
<i>Great Lives 19th Century</i>	Ref 909.81 Great
<i>American National Biography (24 vol. set)</i>	Ref 920.073 AME
<i>Great Events from American History</i>	Ref 973 Great
<i>Facts about Presidents</i>	Ref 973 Kane
<i>American Presidents (6 separate series)</i>	Ref 973.09
<i>American Eras</i>	Ref 973.2 American
<i>Notable American Women</i>	Ref 973.92 Notable
Title of Primary Source Materials	Call Number
<i>Colonial America to 1763 & Revolutionary America 1763-1800</i>	Ref 973 Almanacs
<i>American Primer</i>	Ref 973 American
<i>American Reader</i>	Ref 973 American
<i>American Spirit</i>	Ref 973 Bailey
<i>Dictionary of American History</i>	Ref 973 Dic
<i>Eye Witness to America</i>	Ref 973 Eye
<i>Milestone Documents of American Leaders</i>	Ref 973 Finkleman
<i>American History Told by Contemporaries</i>	Ref 973 Hart
<i>American Press Opinions</i>	Ref 973 Nevins
<i>Annals of America (22 vol. set)</i>	Ref 973.08 Annals
<i>Milestone Documents of American History</i>	Ref 973.08 Milestone

Understanding Citation and Primary Sources:

- ❖ Works Cited is an alphabetical list of works you quoted from, or works you referenced in the paper. Works Cited uses MLA (Modern Language Association) style.

Works Cited and Bibliography are not the same. In Works Cited you only list items you have actually cited. For this project you will not be using a Bibliography, which is a list all of the material you have consulted in preparing your essay whether or not you have actually cited the work.

*Citation information can be found via the On-Line Catalog. Add the book title to ""add to this list", then click "in this list" (right-hand side); finally, click "Go" at the bottom of the page next to the Citation tab.

Two Print Sources = **includes e-books besides print sources**

Two Electronic Sources = **both as databases or a database and one internet site source**

One Primary Source = **item directly from the past**

- ❖ Primary Sources are created by people who actually saw or participated in an event and recorded that event or their reactions to it immediately after.
In history, primary sources are usually letters, records or other written documents created during the period that is being studied. These documents would be as far ranging as diaries, legal notices newspaper articles or personal accounts. Primary sources can include photographs, jewelry, furniture, and all sorts of items crafted from the time period.

Step #2: Databases

Electronic Databases, sponsored by LHS Library, are found on the library webpage. <http://lhswildcats.org/library>

ABC-CLIO	
Username: libertyville	Password: wildcats
Area to Use:	Click on the "Search All " tab for the easiest search. Be sure to read the entry type to prevent needless clicking or select a filter option on the left-hand side of the page.
Citation:	MLA citation is at the bottom of the article.

Annals of America	
Username: cats	Password: library
Areas to Use:	On the Home Page just make a general search or search by your person's name. Resist using only the 'author' search since your person may not have written anything
Citation:	Information is at the bottom of the article and must be placed in MLA format.

Facts on File	
Username: libertyville	Password: wildcats
Areas to Use:	Select "American History Online." Be sure to use the tabs for biographies and primary sources.
Citation:	Information is at the bottom of the article. Be sure to place it in MLA style. Some primary sources within documents have their own citation.

Gale Resource Center	
Login ID wildcats	
Areas to Use:	Select the “U.S. History in Context.” Do a basic search for your topic. Use the content selection for primary sources .
Citation:	Click on the “citation tools” in the “Tool” bar on the right-hand side. Select the MLA 7 th edition and follow the steps. Not all materials will have citation done—you may have to create some.

ProQuest History Center:	
Login ID libertyville	Password: wildcats
Areas to Use:	Select “ProQuest Historical Newspapers” for primary sources documents. Could sort by “most relevant articles first” if you select an era. *Caution—do not use a recent article about a topic from the past as a primary source. Example: an article from 1976 on George Washington.
Citation:	“Citation/Abstract” tab is at the top of the page or use information at the top of the article. Must create the citation.

Step #3: Gale Virtual Reference Library = e-books found in Gale Resource Center

Login ID: wildcats

Areas to Use: Simply conduct a “basic search” or use “advanced search” if you want to restrict your search.

Citation: Citation is at the end of the article in MLA format or click on the “Citation Tool”.

Step #4: Find information on the Internet.

Use the Internet wisely. Set up a good internet search when you use Google. Websites ending in .edu, .gov, .org or .net are usually trustworthy—no Wikipedia and no .com and only one internet source. Remember to use the “+” and “-” symbols to narrow down the search.

For example: Benjamin Franklin
“Benjamin Franklin” +”printing press” -com +edu

General Biography Websites

Internet Public Library Biographies Links
<http://www.ipl.org/div/subject/browse/ref15.00.00/>

Colonial Williamsburg <http://www.history.org/research/> Excellent site for biographies of Colonial America.

Personnel in Naval History <http://www.history.navy.mil/index.html>

Archiving Early America - The Lives of Famous Early Americans
<http://www.earlyamerica.com/lives/> Do not cite since it is a .com address but do use it to gather information to confirm with other sources.

From Revolution to Reconstruction and What Happened Afterwards
<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/B/index.htm> Excellent source.

Who Served at Historic Valley Forge
<http://www.ushistory.org/valleyforge/served/index.html> Excellent coverage of Revolutionary War figures.

National Archives and Records Administration - The Founding Fathers
http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution_founding_fathers.html

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
<http://www.archives.gov/search/index.html>

NARA Women's History
<http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/women.html>

US History: <http://www.ushistory.org/index.html>

Smithsonian Education Spotlight Biography - Founding Fathers
<http://smithsonianeducation.org/spotlight/july4.html> Also has other links to Founding Fathers.

Smithsonian Institute Presidents
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/presidency/home.html>

Spy Letters of the American Revolution - People of the Revolution
<http://www2.si.umich.edu/spies/index-people.html>

The White House - First Ladies' Gallery - Excellent resource
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/firstladies/>

The White House - Presidents of the United States - Excellent resource. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/index.html>

Chronology of U.S. Historical Documents Oklahoma University
Primary Sources
<http://www.law.ou.edu/hist/>

National Park Service --has American battlefields Primary Sources
<http://www.nps.gov/learn>

Public Records **Primary Sources**
<http://publicrecords.searchsystems.net/>

UncleSam--searches only .gov and .mil site **Primary Sources**
<http://www.google.com/unclesam>

University of Idaho—Repository for Primary Sources (contains links to manuscripts, archives, & rare books around the world)
<http://www.uiweb.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html>

WWW Virtual Library **Primary Sources**
<http://vlib.org/>
<http://vlib.iue.it/history/index.html> (history)