



## Library Resources American History Research Paper

### Think about your topic

- Why did you choose it? What interests you about it? Use this to narrow your topic or to analyze it in a unique way.
- Develop a rich list of search terms and correct spellings. Include dates, personalities, events, concepts.

### Books

- Check the online catalog (Southworth and your public library) for books on your subject. Then check the catalog at your local library.
  - Use Interlibrary Loan (ILL) to acquire books. Takes up to two weeks.
- Check specialized reference material at Southworth Library
  - American Eras; Decade Books; Famous US Trials
  - Information on Presidents
  - Biographies
  - In 973, in reference or in the circulating shelves
- Be sure to use NoodleBib to develop your bibliography.

### Magazines and Newspapers

- Found on the Southworth Library Web Page>Reference Databases
- Check Gale Reference Databases for articles on your subject.  
Gale has our most extensive collection of articles, going back to the 1980's.
- Biography Resource Center  
Biographical information on major personalities, plus career highlights, contributions to their field, photographs, further reading.
- Lexis-Nexis  
Searchable collection of magazines and newspapers, back to the 1980's
- JSTOR / Project Muse  
Contain scholarly articles on humanities, arts and social science topics
- Magazines with US perspective  
American Heritage Magazine Archives <http://www.americanheritage.com/>  
Time <http://www.time.com/time/magazine>  
Smithsonian Magazine <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/issue/archive/>

### Web Sites

- Found on the Southworth Library Web Page>Curriculum Connections
- Choose History>American History  
Links to select web sites on specific topics in American History  
Be sure to look at "Best of History Websites" <http://www.besthistorysites.net/USHistory.shtml>
- Look at US Government web sites (<http://www.usa.gov/>, Presidential Libraries, National Parks, NARA)
- Find your own - ask for help. Evaluate it using these guidelines:  
<http://library.duke.edu/services/instruction/libraryguide/evalwebpages.html>

## Locating Primary Source Material At Southworth Library

### Examples of Primary Source Material

- published documents (magazines, newspaper articles, government reports, posters, laws)
- unpublished works (letters, diaries, journals, deeds, report cards)
- oral histories
- photographs, films, or paintings

A good discussion of primary sources, with links to helpful web sources can be found at the University of Washington (Seattle, WA) site at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/sections/history/resources/pubs/usingprimarysources/index.cfm>

### Web Sites on Southworth Library Web Page

The ability to digitize documents and photographs now allows access to collections that were once only available to researchers who could visit special depositories.

#### Curriculum Connections:

- Click on the Curriculum Connections tab
- Select Primary Sources from the History column
- Be sure to check out American Memory  
Digitized collection from the Library of Congress. Includes photographs, documents, music, etc.  
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

#### Photo Archives:

- Click on Reference Databases
- Select AP Images
- Contains photo archives

#### ProQuest Historical Newspapers

- Click on the Reference Database tab
- Select *ProQuest Historical Newspapers Graphical Interface*
- Search by topic, date, or decade  
*ProQuest* is a database that provides archival access to the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*. You may search for the original articles going back to the mid 1800's. This database requires some patience, but has a wealth of information.

### Print Sources

#### Books

There are many books in the collection that contain primary source material. They are both in our reference and general collection. As you are searching the Online Catalog (OPAC) you will need to add certain search terms to locate this material. These could be *Primary Sources*, *Sources*, *Personal Narratives*, *Letters*, *Diaries*, *Correspondences*, or *Photographs*. Ask a librarian for help.

#### Magazines

Southworth Library has back issues of many magazines, such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Life* and *American Heritage*.