Library Resources and Research Techniques for History 297

Learning Outcomes: By the end of your library class you will be able to locate books and articles on your topic using the library catalog and periodical databases. You will also be familiar with subject-related encyclopedias.

Databases: Provide access to published material in magazines, journals, newspapers, and other sources. The UMW Library subscribes to these databases and they are part of the “Deep Web,” as opposed to the “Surface Web” or “Free Web.”

Finding the History and American Studies Subject Guides

- Click on “Guides” in the blue tab on the Library home page, http://libraries.umw.edu, or click on “Research Guides” in the “Get Help” section.
  - Click on “History and American Studies” (http://libguides.umw.edu/histamst).

Finding Subject Encyclopedias and Other Reference Works

- Define and narrow your topic; provide background material.
- Provide lists of other significant resources (that is, bibliographies).
- See UMW Libraries History and American Studies subject guide for some useful titles, including
  - *American Eras: Civil War and Reconstruction, 1850-1877* (REFB E 166 .A48)
  - *Slavery in the United States* (REFB E 441 .S635 2007)

Finding Books

- Find books by author (last name first), title, subject headings (approved words and phrases that describe a topic), or just by typing words “anywhere.”
- Try a Browse Search. For example:
  - Slavery—United States
- Books are shelved by call number: A – L (third floor) and M – Z (second floor).
- Reference books are on the first floor near the Reference Desk.

Citing Your Sources

- Provides links to Chicago / Turabian and other specific citation styles.
- Remember to check your citations using the UMW Chicago guides!
Using Subject Headings (Not an Exhaustive List)

Slave insurrections           Slavery—Moral and Ethical Aspects
Slave trade                    Slavery—Political aspects--Unite
Slavery                        Slavery—Social aspects
Slavery—America               Slavery—Southern States
Slavery and the church         Slavery—United States
Slavery—Economic aspects       Slaves
Slavery—History               Slaves—Emancipation
Slavery—Law and Legislation    Slaves—United States

Finding Articles

Links to history-related databases and other resources that provide abstracts of articles (summaries) and full-text articles are available in the “Locating Articles” section of the UMW Libraries History and American Studies subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/histamst). A good all-purpose database is:

Academic Search Complete (coverage varies; as far back as the 1880s to date)

- Includes thousands of full-text academic journals and periodicals in a wide variety of disciplines.
- Important: Can click on “Choose Databases” to add additional databases, such as America: History and Life, Historical Abstracts, Humanities Full Text, Humanities International Complete, and Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective, 1907-1984.
- Can also choose all the databases that are provided by this particular publisher.

Finding Books and Articles

Quest

- A search tool that allows users to find print and online resources at UMW Libraries through a single interface.
- Click on “Quest” from Library home page, http://libraries.umw.edu.
- A search in Quest will locate:
  - Books, e-books, journals, magazines, and newspapers, and DVDs
  - Articles from journals, magazines, newspapers, and much more

Reviewing Your Research

- See the “Reviewing Your Research” tab on the UMW Libraries History and American Studies subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/histamst).