

HIST 252 & HIST 317:

Library Research on Early America

Key Library Resources
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- [Reading, Writing, and Researching for History: A Guide for College Students](#) – Patrick Rael

GET AN OVERVIEW

- [Dictionary of American History](#)
- [American National Biography](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered History in America](#)
- [Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History](#)
- ***Encyclopedia of African-American History 1619-1895*** Clapp Ref E185 .E545 2006
- ***Handbook of North American Indians: History of Indian-White Relations*** Clapp Ref E77 .H25 v.4
- ***Chronology of Native North American History*** Clapp Ref E77 .C555 1994

FIND BOOKS 5 WAYS

1. Search the [Wellesley Library Catalog](#) – **a few tips:**

- do a **subject search** on an author or historical figure for books **about** them
- In **advanced search** mode, use **synonyms** to find all the ways your topic is expressed: (male or masculine or man or men)
- use **truncation** to save time: raci* for racial, racist, racism, etc
- combine multiple concepts using AND for best results
- enclose your search terms in parentheses!

sample topic: **conversion of African-American slaves to Christianity**


sample search: (slave* or negro* or black* or african*)

AND (convert* or conversion)




AND (christ* or bibl* or religi*)

- examine your results and click on the title of a book that looks good
- look at the subject terms in the **full record view** - follow the link to find more on that topic

 Slaves -- Religious life -- United States -- History

 Christian converts -- United States -- History

 African Americans -- Religion

2. Click on  in our catalog to request a book quickly if our copy is out
3. Try  in our catalog if NExpress doesn't have it
4. Search WorldCat to find material we don't own, click on  and request through ILL (interlibrary loan)
5. In a hurry? Get a [BLC card](#) and borrow the book directly from a nearby library

FIND ARTICLES (SECONDARY SOURCES)

[what's a secondary source?](#)

tip: use the same search techniques as for finding books (see above)

- [America History and Life](#) – index to U.S. & Canadian history articles - **tip:** limit by time period & click on “expand group” to see full records with abstracts
- [JSTOR](#)- a full-text database of articles in key scholarly journals published before the last 3 to 5 years
- [Humanities Full Text](#)
- [Social Sciences Full Text](#)
- [Humanities & Social Science Retrospective](#)

FIND PRIMARY SOURCES

[what's a primary source?](#)

- **Early American Imprints:** [Evans: 1639-1800](#) | [Shaw-Shoemaker 1801-1819](#)
- [America's Historical Newspapers](#) 1690-1922
- [American Memory](#) - fabulous collection of visual and printed primary sources from the Library of Congress, online and searchable
- [Civil War: A Newspaper Perspective](#) - articles from the Northern and Southern papers let you compare Union and Confederate views of the American Civil War
- [African-American Women Archival Collections](#) – Duke University
- [The American Revolution: National Discussions of Our Revolutionary Origins](#) – includes primary sources – from H-Net
- [Making of America](#) (Michigan) & [MOA-Cornell](#) - digital libraries of primary sources in American social history
- [Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938](#)
- [American Journeys: Eyewitness Accounts of Early American Settlement...](#) - Wisconsin Historical Society

MORE HELP...

- [Citing your sources in Turabian Style](#) – Bridgewater State College guide
- Check out our other [Research Guides by Subject](#), including [History](#), [Africana Studies](#), etc.
- **And remember – you can always call me, email me, or drop by to talk to me if you get stuck or want more advice!**

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