



# 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY U.S. HISTORY

## A VINCENNES UNIVERSITY LIBRARY GUIDE

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### I. FIND BOOKS: VU WEBCAT ONLINE CATALOG

<http://www.vinu.edu> (Click on Majors and Academics, then Libraries, then FIND BOOKS, then VU WebCat)

Webcat is VU's web-based library catalog. Use it to find books, videos, sound recordings, and other research items. With the FIND BOOKS page (Search Other Libraries) the catalogs of large research libraries (Indiana and Purdue universities, and others) can be searched as well, and students may borrow materials from these institutions using free **Interlibrary Loan**.

#### A. BEGIN WITH A KEYWORD SEARCH.

- Enter words that describe your topic (names, places, events, etc.)
- Find a book on your topic, examine its subject headings for relevance to your topic.
- Click on a hyperlinked subject heading to retrieve related books

B. **PERFORM A SUBJECT HEADING SEARCH** in VU WebCat only if you know a valid Library of Congress subject heading.

- Search "United States—History" to browse a list of relevant subject headings:  
United States—History -- 1919-1933 -- Pictorial Works  
United States—History -- 20<sup>th</sup> Century—Sources
- Note that many Library of Congress subject headings relevant to American History do not begin with "United States—History."  
Indiana--History  
Fires--Illinois--Chicago--History--20th century  
Anti-communist movements—Middle West—History -- 20<sup>th</sup> century

C. **BROWSING THE STACKS** can help you evaluate the library's collection in a given field of study. The following call number ranges contain works relevant to American history:

- 973: History of America
- 977: Indiana History

D. **SEARCH WORLDCAT**, an online catalog for libraries throughout the world, to take your search beyond Shake Library. It is available under the Find Books heading.

### II. PRINT PERIODICALS IN LIBRARY

*American Heritage, American History, Current History, History Today, Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History* (Lewis Library), and *Smithsonian*

Use **Find Periodical Titles** from the library web page to access numerous electronic journals in the library's electronic resources/database (there are 167 full text general history journals alone).

### III. FIND ARTICLES: FULL-TEXT LIBRARY DATABASES/ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

<http://www.vinu.edu> (Access the Find Articles page, then your choice of the databases discussed below.) Use databases/electronic resources to locate full-text articles appearing in journals, magazines, newspapers, and electronic books.

**EBSCOhost:** The **Academic Search Premier database** provides useful information for college research papers and includes journals such as: *Journal of American History*, *American Heritage*, *American Historical Review*, *OAH Magazine of History*, *Historian*, more.

**Proquest:** Provides full-text journals from many areas, especially Social Sciences. There are 100 history journals in Proquest, including *Black History Bulletin*, *Journal of African American History*, *Journal of Military History*, *Journal of Women's History*, *Oral History Review*, and more.

**NewsBank's America's Newspapers:** Provides full-text articles from local, state, and national newspapers and news magazines. Includes the *New York Times*.

**Credo Reference:** Ebook collection containing over 300 reference books, 28 in the history curriculum. These include *A Dictionary of Contemporary History-1945 to the Present*; *Black Firsts*; *Encyclopedia of North American Indians*; *The Reader's Companion to Military History*; *the Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History*, and more. Search the entire database or access/read the ebooks individually, if desired.

#### **IV. REFERENCE BOOKS**

Besides using books and articles, some of your most important print and online resources are to be found in the VU Library's Reference Collection. A great deal of material--especially on obscure topics--may be found in reference books.

**Selected Electronic Reference Books:** Found on the Find Books page in the **VU WebCat catalog** and on the **VU Libraries Electronic Reference Collections** link. Includes:

*Africa and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History* (ABC-CLIO)  
*Gale Encyclopedia of World History: Governments*  
*Gale Encyclopedia of World History: War*  
*Social History of the United States* (ABC-CLIO)  
*The American Midwest: An Interpretative Encyclopedia* (Gale)  
*The Crusades: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO)  
*The Eighties in America* (Gale)  
*The Oxford Companion to World Exploration*  
*The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World*  
*The Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in World History*  
*Utopias in American History* (ABC-CLIO)

#### **Selected Print Reference Works:**

*American Chronicle: Year by Year Through the 20th Century*. 1999. (Ref. 973.9 G662a)  
*American National Biography*. 1999-. (Ref. 920 A512b)  
*Dictionary of American History*. 2003. (Ref. 973.03 A194d)  
*Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History*. 2001. (Ref. 973.03 E56c)  
*Encyclopedia of American Political History*. 2001. (Ref. 973.03 A194d)  
*Encyclopedia of Appalachia*. 2006. (Ref. 974 E56e)  
*Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. 1989. (Ref. 975.003 E56e)  
*Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War*. 1996. (Ref. 959.704 E56e)  
*Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America*. 1995. (Ref. 305.8 G151g)  
*Korean War Almanac*. 2006. (Ref. 951.904 E26k)  
*The African American Almanac*. 2007. (Ref. 973.04 P729n)  
*The Annals of America*. 2003. (Ref. 973.08 A613a)  
*The Fifties in America*. 2005. (Ref. 973.92 F469f)  
*The Simon and Shuster Encyclopedia of World War II*. 1978. (Ref. 940.53 P261s)  
*The Sixties in America*. 1999. (Ref. 973.92 S625a)  
*The U.S. in the First World War: An Encyclopedia*. 1999. (Ref. 940.37 U58u)