

Electronic Databases for History Studies



NEWTON GRESHAM LIBRARY

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Getting Started



- *My Goal: To give you a sense of the breadth and variety of electronic content available.*
- Overview of all history databases available from NGL
- How to access databases
- A closer look at:
 - America: History and Life
 - America's Historical Newspapers
 - Early American Imprints

Overview of History Databases at NGL



- ~16 databases of primary interest
- Millions of articles & citations
- Thousands of journals, magazines, newspapers, books, official publications, & archival collections
- Predominately primary source content (*e.g., periodicals from a period*), mid-1600s to modern
 - Secondary source history content available especially in America: History and Life; Historical Abstracts; JSTOR
- Predominately American focus, but several resources have British and/or international focus
- Predominately English language, with some exceptions

Accessing Databases Available from NGL



- <http://library.shsu.edu>
- Click “Databases and Indexes” in the main menu
- Click a letter to access a database alphabetically by name (or)
- Click “Databases By Subject” and select “History” to browse databases relevant to history studies

- *On SHSU campus:* Click database name to open
- *Off campus:* Click database name, then enter SHSU username and password to log in

America: History and Life



- Coverage: U.S. & Canada only, prehistory to present
- Sources: 450,000+ bibliographic entries from 2,000+ journals published worldwide
- Flexible options to build precise searches
- Narrow retrieved results by subject and/or source
- Companion database, *Historical Abstracts*, covers world (**not** US or Canada), 1450 to present
- Both include chiefly **secondary source** content

America's Historical Newspapers



- Coverage: U.S., 1690-1922
- Sources: Newspapers from all 50 states (1690-1922)
- Limit search by presidential era, historical era, custom date range, state, city, or specific newspaper
- Also look at:
 - 19th Century US Newspapers: local views, urban & rural
 - New York Times: good for more national perspective
 - International periodicals: try Times of London, British Periodicals, and Periodicals Archive Online (*which also includes non-English periodicals*)

Early American Imprints (*Series I & II*)



- Coverage: 1639-1800 (*series I*); 1801-1819 (*series II*)
- Sources: Books, pamphlets, broadsides, and other imprints including diaries, playbills, wills, maps, military registers, etc.
- Primary source items supporting historical study in politics, economy, religion, society, music, literature, war, and other topics.
- Access to unique kinds of historical content to which students might not otherwise be exposed

Questions? Need Assistance?



- **Erin (Dorris) Cassidy, Reference Librarian and Bibliographer for History & Foreign Languages**
 - EDORRIS@shsu.edu
 - 936-294-4567

- **NGL Reference Desk**
 - Local Telephone: (936) 294-1614
 - Toll-free Telephone: 1-800-NGL-INFO (645-4636)
 - Email or Live Chat: click “Ask-A-Librarian” on the website

Post-Presentation Follow-Up: A Few Notes



- **Education databases**
 - Primary Search – elementary
 - Middle Search Plus – junior high/high school
 - MAS Ultra-School Edition – high school
- **To search by reading level**
 - Uses Lexical Reading Levels (numerical ranges)
 - Do any search; find an article with a blue number in its citation
 - Click number; reference page will show equivalent grade levels for each numerical range (tip: save or print for reference)
 - In future searches, select the numerical range for your grade level to only search for items appropriate to that reading level
 - Tip: Use this to find alternative items for struggling readers.