



# NATIONAL HISTORY DAY



## FINDING and ASSEMBLING RESOURCES September 21, 2012

- Begin reading for context.** Be able to set the stage for your research, so that you understand the historical era. Find one or two general resources in order to understand where your topic fits in the grand scheme of history as well as the contemporary time of its impact.
- Keep developing a list of **key search terms**, both broad and narrow. Use these terms in your search for resources and within resources (search engines, index of a book, etc). Wikipedia is actually a helpful tool for this step.
- Identify your **best possible primary sources**, and try to determine where they may be found. Think big, and thank about many.
- Identify **possible specific libraries, historical associations, historical sites, or other organizations** that may help your research, and then find their addresses or URLs. Contact them! Now is the time!
- Use the **online card catalog at USM** and **your local public library** to develop a list of possible sources.
- Use **Google books** to locate great sources (or segments of great sources)
- Use the other excellent **research sites available from the USM MS Library site**.
- Use the **internet** to find excellent primary and secondary sources.
- Use **secondary sources to find primary sources or additional secondary sources**.
- Limit the use of internet based sources** to those that are reliable. Check the resources carefully for reliability!
- Once you find a source, **write it down or record it!** You may want to also record where you physically obtained the source. Use proper form. Citation machines on the internet are great resources.
- Get a **broad and balanced** collection of resources. Don't just rely on a couple of books or one collection of newspapers.
- Complete your **skeleton bibliography** and submit it for evaluation by Rocktober 16. Follow the instructions on the Skeleton Bibliography Evaluation handout and online.

# RESOURCES ON USM LIBRARY SITE

## USM Card Catalog

## Public Library Catalogs

## ProQuest Historical Newspapers

Username – usmstudent  
Password - wildcats

## ABC-CLIO

Username – usmstudent  
Password - historyrules or wildcats

Available at <http://destiny.usm.k12.wi.us/common/welcome.jsp>

# AND, THE AHR! NHD SITE

# A GUIDE TO USING INTERNET RESOURCES

Follow this rule – BOOKS FIRST, INTERNET SECOND

Historians rarely use websites as a resource of information.

Don't confuse "internet sources" and "online databases".

Use the internet to find primary resources online and in print.

Examine internet resources carefully for reliability.

## Ask Questions When Evaluating Internet Sources!

### **STOP!**

Have you read secondary sources related to your topic? Examined what other historians think?

IF NOT: Go back and check out some books and journal articles before looking at Web sites.

### **WHAT is this site about?**

Record its title for citation.

### **WHO created this page?**

Consider the author's credentials! Record the author's name for citation.

### **WHERE is the information coming from?**

Record the URL for citation.

### **WHY is this site on the Web?**

Consider how the site's purpose affects the information it offers.

### **WHEN was the page or information created?**

Record the created/updated date and your date of visit for citation.

### **HOW accurate or credible is the page?**

### **Online bibliographic guide**

#### MLA-Style

Author last name, first name, middle initial. "Title of work/page (if available)." Document date. Title of Web site. [URL address] (date of visit).

McFeely, William B. "Trial and Error: Capital Punishment in the United States." January 2001. History Matters. [http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5420/] (December 2, 2003).

National History Day in Wisconsin 2004

Wisconsin Historical Society. "Evaluating Internet Sites." 2004. National History Day in Wisconsin.

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/teachers/historyday/documents/computerreminder04.pdf>.

Internet sources are usually not high quality secondary sources.

Use the internet to find secondary print resources.

Make sure that you have a broad and balanced collection of resources.