Help is available 24/7 via Ask a Librarian.

Books
All books can be located by author, title, and subject in the library's online catalog. The online catalog is available through the library's web site. History books are available for browsing on the second floor of the library, call numbers C, D, E, and F.
The Monroe Library uses the Library of Congress Classification System (LC). The classes of LC relevant to researching history topics are listed below; these will help you browse the library shelves. More information about LC is available here.

- C: "auxiliary sciences of history" includes archaeology, chronology, numismatics, inscriptions, heraldry, genealogy, and biography
- D: world history, history of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, etc.
- E: history of America and the United States
- F: U.S. local history, British, Dutch & French America, Spanish America (Louisiana F366-380)

The library catalog:

Use the catalog to search for books, ebooks, journals, CDs, scores, and videos.

Ebooks are viewed online; please see this handout for more information.

Current periodicals (journals) are at the front of the 2nd floor. Older issues are behind the current issues on the 2nd floor. Both are in alphabetical order.

DVDs are on the 1st floor.
Videos are stored behind the Learning Commons desk; please ask for assistance.

Music materials, including scores and CDs, are at the back of the 1st floor.

**Databases:**
Library databases contain citations for articles. Sometimes the full text of an article is available through the database you are searching. Sometimes the full text is available through another database or in print; the red *Get it!* button lets you know if this is the case. See page 4 for more information about *Get it!*

The library databases are grouped by subject on this page: [http://library.loyno.edu/find/databases/](http://library.loyno.edu/find/databases/)

Databases that support history research directly or indirectly include:

- **Academic Search Complete:** social science, science, humanities & arts
- **America: History and Life:** North American history only
- **JSTOR:** back issues of scholarly journals in many subject areas
- **History Reference Center:** historical documents, encyclopedia, book, journal & magazine articles
- **World History Collection:** full-text articles on world history from 150 publications
- **HarpWeek:** image of 19th century magazine (1857-1877)
- **ARTstor:** fine and applied arts images from every civilization and period of history
- **Keesing's Record of World Events:** chronology of world events, 1960 to present
- **Iter: Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance:** covers books, book chapters, and articles for the period 400 - 1700

Academic Search Complete is a database that covers many subjects. We’ll use it as an example of how to find articles in a database.

The *basic search screen* has a search box and ways to limit your search. Check the box next to these limits to retrieve articles that match only those criteria.
The **advanced search screen** includes pull-down menus for Boolean operators and for specific fields in the database. There are also more options for limiting your search.

More information about finding articles is available [here](#).

**Boolean Operators:**
There are three Boolean operators: AND, OR, and NOT. These logical operators tell the database how to combine your search terms.

The **AND** operator tells the database to retrieve only articles that have **Both** of your search terms. For example, if you want to find articles that mention both frogs and toads, you would use the AND operator. This can be represented visually like so:

![AND operator diagram](image)

The **OR** operator tells the database to retrieve articles that have **either** of your search terms. For example, if articles about either frogs or toads will be helpful to your research, use the OR operator. The visual representation looks like this:

![OR operator diagram](image)

The **NOT** operator tells the database to retrieve articles that have **one but not the other** of your search terms. For example, if you need articles that mention only frogs and not toads, use the NOT operator. It looks like this:

![NOT operator diagram](image)
The Get it! button:
When an article is available in full text in the database you are searching, click on the link that says either PDF Full Text or HTML full text to access the article. If not, the Get it! button will tell you if the article is available in another database or in print.

Managing Citations, Creating a Works Cited Page:
RefWorks can help you manage your citations, and it makes creating a bibliography or works cited page much easier. Information about using Refworks is available in this handout.

If you have questions about library research,
Ask A Librarian

Library Home