

North American History Collections

Brief Overview of the Major Collection

This collection contains various topical/emphasis collections on North American history and is organized by three general topical collections: US history, Canadian history and the history of the Indigenous Peoples. There are various formats and libguides available here to access that do not require any log in or subscriptions (as of now). The collection is great for research guides on all three general topics.

To view a resource, click on the titles in bold, and you will be redirected to the chosen resource.

US History Collections

Brief Overview

This collection features general resources on American history that are comprehensive in scope and an emphasis collection specific to WWII American history.

- **American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1940**
A collection of oral histories from the WPA's Folklore Project that brings together over 2,000 personal narratives and case studies from the late 1930s. The histories describe the quotidian and the unusual life stories of Americans from over 20 states.
- **American Memory**
A gateway site to primary source materials and images relating to the history and culture of the United States.
- **American Social History Project - Center for Media and Learning**
A gateway site to this organization's resources for teachers and students of American history, including print, visual and multimedia materials.
- **American Women's History: A Research Guide**
This guide provides citations to print and Internet reference sources and selected large primary source collections.
- **Biography of America**
This site features 26 topics in United States history, each including maps, key events, and links to sites with primary and secondary source materials.
- **Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers**

This site allows you to search and read pages from selected newspapers from 1900-1910 and find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present—part of an ongoing project.

- **Cornell University Collection of Political Americana**

A digital collection of political campaign memorabilia from the eighteenth to the twentieth century.

- **Digital History**

This site includes a wealth of resources, including annotated primary sources on the United States, Mexican American and Native American history, and slavery.

- **Documenting the American South**

Documenting the American South provides access to texts, images, and audio files related to Southern history, literature, and culture from the colonial period through the first decades of the 20th century.

- **Historical United States Census Browser**

This University of Virginia site provides searchable data, taken from the federal census, about the people and the economy of the United States for each state and county from 1790 to 1960.

- **History Matters: The U.S. Survey Course on the Web**

A gateway site to U.S. History material on the web.

- **How much is that? (EH.Net)**

This is a digital archives collection of historical economic data and documents pertaining to American finance from 1776-1937, it also includes information from countries outside the US.

- **Making of America (Cornell University)**

Making of America (MOA) is a digital library of primary sources in American social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction.

- **National Park Service - Links to the Past (Updated Link)**

Information from the National Parks Service on historically significant cultural resources such as buildings, landscapes and other sites.

- **National Security Archive**

This site from George Washington University includes declassified U.S. documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.

- **NYPL Manuscript and Archives Collections**

The Division holds about 30,000 linear feet of archival material in over 3,000 collections. The strengths of the Division are the papers and records of individuals, families, and organizations, primarily from the New York region. These collections, dating from the 18th through the 20th centuries, support research in the political, economic, social, and cultural history of New York and the United States.

- **Religion and the Founding of the American Republic**

This site explores the role religion played in the shaping of America from the 1600s to the 1800s.

- **Voice of the Shuttle - U.S. History Resources**

A gateway site to United States history sites arranged by general subject headings.

- **Women Working, 1870-1930**

This collection explores women's roles in the US economy between the Civil War and the Great Depression by providing access to historical manuscripts, images and other primary sources.

- **The Virtual American History Museum**

The following is a group of resources that will thrill any American history buff. The resources are collections from libraries and museums. These are only a few examples of virtual museum tours. If you know of any early American resources, please feel free to add them. New virtual tours are popping up practically every day during the recent health restrictions. So that people everywhere have an opportunity to visit museums from anywhere at any time virtually.

- **Missouri History Museum Database: Scope**

The history of St. Louis and surrounding areas. Notable Collections: artifacts related to the Lewis and Clark expedition, the 1904 World's Fair, and aviator Charles Lindbergh, the third most extensive collection of Thomas Jefferson papers in the country, and one of the nation's most extensive textile collections. While not everything is digitized, at least parts of all these collections are digitized. The database is available to the public for free.

- **Arizona History and Culture**

The Arizona Memory Project (AMP) includes primary sources from museums, libraries, archives and other cultural institutions from the state of Arizona.

- **Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers**

Historic American newspaper pages from 1777-1963 are included. Users can also find information about American newspapers from 1690 to the present. It is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.

The University of New Mexico

The University of New Mexico Digital Collection provides access to digitized photographs, manuscripts, posters, maps, videos, books, and oral histories from libraries, cultural centers and museums across New Mexico.

1. WORLD WAR II AND THE 1940s

Brief Overview

This emphasis collection contains various resources specific to the US and their relationship to Europe during WWII history and Asian-US perspectives spanning 1939-1945.

- **The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum**

The Museum's Collections document the fate of Holocaust victims, survivors, rescuers, liberators, and others through artifacts, documents, photos, films, books, personal stories, and more. The site also offers educational resources such as a holocaust encyclopedia, holocaust survivors and victims resource center, and an encyclopedia of camps and ghettos.

- **The Museum of Tolerance**

The Museum of Tolerance (MOT) is the educational arm of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, an internationally renowned Jewish human rights organization. The only museum of its kind in the world, the MOT is dedicated to challenging visitors to understand the Holocaust in both historical and contemporary contexts and confront all forms of prejudice and discrimination in our world today.

- **Densho.org**

A registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization has created a digital archive collecting the history of the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans. This is a free web-based resource with an extensive digital collection and learning resources. Items of interest include a name registry to look up individuals held in the incarceration camps, oral histories, and documents and photos related to life in the camps.

- **CSUDH Japanese American Digitization Project**

The Gerth Archives houses the Japanese American Digitization Project, which includes close to 30,000 photographs, oral histories, and documents relating to the experiences of Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II.

Canadian History

Brief Overview

This collection contains general topical collections on Canadian history that are broad in scope.

- **Canadiana Discovery Portal**

Your best source for Canada's documentary heritage - search digital collections of

libraries, archives, and museums from across Canada.

- **Canadiana Online**
Monographs, serials, and government publications document all aspects of Canadian history.
- **Canadiana Heritage**
Draws from the rich corpus of archival microfilm held by Library and Archives Canada, focusing on documents from the individuals and organizations shaping Canada's history. Politics, arts and literature, labour, military, aboriginal history, social justice and women's history are particular areas of strength.
- **Archives Canada**
A gateway to archival resources found in over 800 repositories across Canada.
- **Library and Archives Canada**
The shared documentary heritage of all Canadians spans the country's entire history.
- **Canadian Pamphlets and Broad­sides**
Pre-1930 Canadian pamphlets and broadsides.
- **The Historical Atlas of Canada**
The project intended to make the maps and data generated for the Historical Atlas of Canada available to a broader audience. The website includes conventional text and image pages focusing on interactive maps.
- **Modern History Sourcebook - Canada**
A database collection of topical studies in Canadian History spanning Canada's inception as a country to the 1930s.

History of Indigenous Peoples (North America)

Brief Overview

This core collection will grow to contain various topical/emphasis collections on the history of Indigenous Peoples of North America.

- **Native American Cultures**
This resource contains a collection of articles on documenting the histories of Indigenous Peoples of North America. The site organizes articles by topics that you can easily navigate to from the main page. You do not need to subscribe to the parent organization in order to view any article.
- **Indigenous Peoples and Communities of Canada**

The Canadian Government has produced a comprehensive resource for information and access to historical archives on the indigenous communities living in Canada today. From this resource, you can learn more about their geography, cultures, and governance.