

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 398 132

SO 026 620

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 TITLE American History: Selected Bibliography.
 PUB DATE [May 96]
 NOTE 17p.
 PUB TYPE Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
 DESCRIPTORS Annotated Bibliographies; Chronicles; Higher Education; Historiography; Libraries; Library Collections; *Primary Sources; *United States History
 IDENTIFIERS University of Rhode Island

ABSTRACT

This selected annotated bibliography of United States history is an introduction to sources that can be found in the reference section of the library at the University of Rhode Island. Included are basic sources and more advanced research tools to acquaint students with different types of research tools available and to encourage students to consider the many different avenues research in this area can take. References include: (1) historical method (1 item); (2) bibliographies (14 items); (3) encyclopedias and dictionaries (11 items); (4) atlases (7 items); (5) handbooks (5 items); (6) chronologies (3 items); (7) directories (3 items); (8) biographies (4 items); and (9) indexes and abstracts (2 items).
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AMERICAN HISTORY: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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AMERICAN HISTORY SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Historical research offers a vast array of information to students. Sometimes so overwhelming is this sea of information finding a focal point can be frustrating. This often leads to many helpful sources being overlooked or ignored. The following is a selected bibliography of American History sources that can be found in the reference section of the library at the University of Rhode Island. This is not intended to be a complete list but an introduction. Included are not only basic sources but some more advanced research tools, the purpose for this being two fold. First to acquaint students with the different types of research tools available, secondly to encourage students to consider the many different avenues research in this area can take.

HISTORICAL METHOD

Barzun, Jacques and Henry F. Graff. The modern researcher. 5th ed. Boston : Houghton Mifflin Company, 1992.

This is a combination manual of research methods, essay on the evaluation and interpretation of facts and textbook on writing acceptable expository English. Most useful to students in the humanities and social sciences. Bibliographic citations emphasize research in the field of history. Includes information on the use of computers and data banks. Skillfully done this is an essential how to source for guidance in the techniques of research.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Arksey, Laura. American diaries: an annotated bibliography of published American diaries and journals. 2 vols. Detroit : Gale, 1983-1987. Volume 1 contains diaries written from 1492 to 1844, volume 2 from 1845-1980. Arranged by beginning date of diary then by author. Gives complete publication information. Annotations indicate period covered, contents and special events described. Contains detailed subject and geographical indexes. Useful to track down first hand sources that detailed historical events.

Ref Z5305 V5 A74 1983

Beers, Henry Putney. Bibliographies in American history guide to materials for research. rev. ed. reprint 1975. NY : Wilson, 1942.

Listing more than 11,000 non annotated sources this is considered a classic guide to bibliographies in American history. Covers a whole range of source types from general aids to cartography and genealogy. Federal, state, local government documents as well as business, church and personal publications are included. Many aspects of U. S. History are covered including political, economic, military, and cultural. A central index of main entries and subjects is provided. A good starting place.

Ref Z1236 A1 B4

Beer, Henry Putney. Bibliographies in American history 1942-1978: guide to materials for research. 2 vols. Woodbridge, CT : Research Publications Inc., 1982.

This is a continuation of the previous work. It includes 11,800 additional titles of publications as well as archival and manuscript research aids. Not annotated.

Ref Z1236 B37 1982

A bibliography of American autobiographies. Madison, WI : University of Wisconsin Press, 1961.

Arranges 6,377 numbered entries alphabetically by author. A subject index indicates occupations, locale and important historical events: Headings often subdivided into periods. Main entry listing subject index. Another good source for first hand accounts.

Ref Z1224 K3

Bibliotheca Americana: a catalogue of books relating to North & South America in the library of the late John Carter Brown. 4 vols.

Providence : H. O. Houghton & Co., 1865-1871.

Lists 4,173 annotated and numbered items arranged chronologically. Has detailed bibliographic information. Furnished with an alphabetical authors index. This library at Brown University is considered rich in breath and depth and this is a well documented guide to it.

Ref Z1203 B87 1882

Blazek, Ron and Anna H. Perrault. United States History: a selective guide to information sources. Englewood, CO : Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1994. Designed for a wide range of users from sophisticated researchers to the general public, this is a selective but thorough coverage of bibliographic and informational materials. The work contains 947 major entries and is the first of its kind to consider the gay influence and treat genealogy in a serious manner. Publication dates range from standard and classic works of the 19th century to works as recent as 1993. In addition CD ROM's, online databases and microforms are covered. Very user friendly with author, title subject, index.
Ref Z1236 B57 1994

Carman, Harry J. and Arthur W. Thompson. A guide to the principle sources for American civilization, 1800-1900, in the city of New York: printed materials. 2 vols. NY : Columbia University Press, 1962. A guide to manuscripts and printed sources found in the libraries and depositories in New York City for the study of early American history. Basic arrangement is first topical then within chapters material for the county then for each state. There is a general index and within each volume a name index. Usefulness of this work is found in the wide variety of topics covered. From common ones such as politics and economics to cookery and theater.
Ref Z1236 C25 1962

Church, Elihu Dwight. A catalogue of books relating to the discovery and early history of North & South America forming a part of the library of E. D. Church. NY : Peter Smith, 1951. Considered a monumental work, this includes 1,385 titles arranged chronologically by publication date. Earliest begins 1482, continues to 1884. Important historical bibliographical annotations are given for each title. Differences in copies are noted. Locations are given for copies in 50 public and private libraries are given as well as the Church collection which is now a part of the Huntington Library, San Mauro California.
Ref Z1203 C55 1951

Dewitt, Donald L. Guide to archives and manuscript collections in the United States; an annotated bibliography. Westport, CT : Greenwood, 1994. Presents 2,062 mostly annotated entries. Arranged by subject includes and author, subject and repository name indexes. This work covers unpublished materials. In addition to traditional manuscripts non traditional sources which makes this a valuable work included calendars, directories, inventories, oral histories, collections of photographs and maps.
Ref CD3022 A2 D48 1994

Freidel, Frank ed. Harvard guide to American History rev. ed., 2 vols. Cambridge, MA : Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1974. This is considered the basic reference bibliography for American history and is an indispensable first source in this field. It includes citations for books as well as periodical materials. Volume one is arranged by topic. Volume 2 is arranged chronological then by topic within historical period. Major divisions here being America to 1789; United States 1789-1860; Civil War and reconstruction, rise of industry and empire; the twentieth century. Several helpful chapters devoted to "research methods and materials."
Ref Z1236 F77 1974

Maurer, David J. U. S. Politics and elections: a guide to information sources. Detroit : Gale, 1978. Arranged by historical period from colonial times to 1976 this is an introductory annotated bibliography very useful to beginning research. Features indexes for author, title and subject. Biographies are listed separately in each section. Though the titles represent only a fraction of reference sources and monographs available on the subject those included are generally available in many libraries.
Ref Z1236 M39

Sharp, Harold S. Footnotes to American history: a bibliographic source book. Metuchen, NJ : Scarecrow Press, 1977. Three hundred thirteen events in American history are described in short narrative form. Significant dates and names of principles are followed by a list of bibliographic sources. Both major and minor events are covered and identified by its commonly accepted name (i.e. "Dred Scott Decision," "Salem Witchcraft trials"). Arranged by date of happening the first being (990 to 1015) the discovery of North American by Noremen to (1974-1976) the Patty Hearst Affair. For the reader who needs quick identification of events. Needs updating but still useful.
Ref X1236 S48

Hinding, Andrea. ed. Women's history sources: a guide to archives and manuscript collections in the United States. NY : Bowker, 1979. Devoted to papers of women, records of women's organizations, records of movements women play significant parts in, "hidden" women collections and other manifestations concerning women. This source features 18,026 collections in 1,586 repositories . Arranged geographically by state then city. The majority of information was collected through questionnaires. Slightly chaotic but the wealth of information on this growing subject should not be overlooked.
Z7964 U49 H56

Writings on American history: a subject bibliography of articles.

Washington : Kraus-Thomson, 1904-1978. Annual.

This annual bibliography and index is an excellent source to find books and articles on the history of the United States. A classified arrangement of author, title, and subject index is featured. Includes an abundance of descriptive notes. Critical reviews are cited through 1940. Through 1935 this source contains reference to any book or article that has valuable information on the history of the U. S and British Canada as well as all books published in the U. S. or Europe on Latin America and the Pacific Island. Depth and scope make this an important source.

ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES

Cayton, Mary Kupiec, Elliot J. Gorn, Peter W. Williams eds. Encyclopedia of American social history. 3 vols. NY : Scribner, 1993.

One hundred eighty subject-specific essays (example oral history) are grouped into fourteen thematic sections such as regional subcultures and social identity. Provides a look at the history of every day life.

Very good topical index. Helpful see also references and bibliographies end each essay. Interesting reading. Good source for background and color information.

Ref HN57 E58 1993

Dictionary of American history. rev. ed., 8 vols. NY: Scribner, 1976-1978.

Regarded by historians as one of the best works of its kind, this source features 7,200 articles each dealing with a separate aspect of American history. Clear and concise each article is signed by the contributor.

Covers politics, economy as well as industrial and cultural history.

Though it does not feature biographies information on prominent people can be found within articles by looking in the analytical index in volume eight. A good starting off place for background work.

Ref E174 D52 1976

Cordsco, Francesco ed. Dictionary of American immigration history.

Metuchen, NJ : Scarecrow Press, 1990.

Arranged alphabetically this source covers a broad range of topics relating to immigration. Entries range from a paragraph to long essays.

Brief bibliographies of one to three items end each entry. A brief history of immigration is given in the introduction. Numerous cross references are used. The range of topic in this source makes it worth while. Topics span everything from ethnic groups to conceptual themes.

Ref JV6450 D53 1990

Poter, Glen ed. Encyclopedia of American economical history: studies of the principal movements and ideas. 3 vols. NY : Scribner, 1980.
Grouped into five sections over three volumes the subjects include, historiography, chronology, economic growth, institutional frame work and social frame work. Prominent scholars were tapped and all 72 articles are signed. Extensive annotated bibliographic information can be found at the end of each article. Volume three contains a general index. Complicated issues made palatable.
Ref HC103 E52

DeConde, Alexander ed. Encyclopedia of American foreign policy: studies of the principal movement and ideas. 3 vols. NY : Scribner, 1978.
Presented in essay form this three volume set explores theories and themes as well as policies that have affected American foreign relations. Brief selected bibliographies accompany the 95 included articles. Cross references are provided for related essays . An extensive name and subject index is included. Well written and researched. Once again complicated issues made palatable.
Ref JX1407 E53

Encyclopedia of the North American colonies. 4 vols. NY : Charles Scribner's Sons, 1994.
Covers all aspects of the confederacy including social, cultural, military, economic and political. Comprehensive with dynamic essays, well chosen illustrations. A major contribution to literature on the American Civil War.
Ref E487 E55 1993

Encyclopedia USA: the encyclopedia of the United States past & present.
20 vols. Gulf breeze, FL : Academic International Press, 1994.
An all encompassing work directed at a wide readership, from general public to scholars. Covers all aspects of American life by featuring events, major facts, personalities and institutions. Articles are readable and signed with brief bibliographies at the end. Features a topical index. A good starting point, will help students find focus and direction.
Ref E77.9 H57

Greene, Jack P. ed. Encyclopedia of American political history: studies of the principal movements and ideas. 3 vols. NY : Scribner, 1984.
Covering major issues and developments throughout United States history from before the fight for independence began to the time of publication these 90 articles are authoritative and scholarly. Each article is by an expert on the topic and a well rounded account is given. Each has an excellent bibliography at its end. These volumes are very well indexed. Helpful in organizing complicated themes.
Ref E183 E5

James, Edward T. Notable American Women 1607-1950 a biographical dictionary. 3 vols. Cambridge, MA : The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971.
A biographical dictionary of 1,359 names. This source is limited to coverage of women who died no later than 1950. Active careers of women included extend little beyond 1920. Women with historical significance as well as those who worked in particular fields (i.e. art, theater, science) are included. Only wives of presidents are included on their husbands credentials. Most articles are signed and written by someone with knowledge of the subject or her field. Length of articles range from 400 words to 7,000. A place to find hard to find information and identities.
Ref CT3260 N57

Sicherman, Barbara and Carol Hurd Green eds. Notable American women the modern period: a biographical dictionary. Cambridge, MA : The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1980.
A supplementary volume to the preceding entry. Here 442 names are included of subjects who died between Jan 1, 1951 and Dec. 31, 1975. Equally as useful as the above.
Ref CT3260 N573

Morris, Richard B. Encyclopedia of American History 6th ed. NY : Harper & Row, 1982.

More of a manual than a typical encyclopedia this is a one volume source with comprehensive coverage. There are four main sections. Part I (Basic Chronology) presents major political and military events. Accounts of exploration, settlement as well as colonial and revolutionary problems. Events are arranged in time sequence. Part II (Topical Chronology) organizes facts that include constitutional developments, expansion as well as economic, scientific and technological developments. Part III (Biographical) features 500 Americans outstanding in their fields. Part IV covers the structure of the federal government with listings of presidents, cabinets and supreme court justices. A cross reference index helps quick access however a lack of bibliographic and reference sources is a serious weakness yet for its scope it is an excellent source.
Ref E174.5 E52 1982

ATLASES

The American Heritage pictorial atlas of United States history. NY : American Heritage, 1966.

Elaborate color spreads amid attractive color maps make this an attractive offering. The accompanying texts are unsigned but title page credits distinguished contributors. Includes information not found in other atlases. Good section on W.W.II operations. Very nice pictorial maps of major Revolutionary and Civil War battles.
Ref G1201 S1 A4 1966

Atlas of historical county boundaries: Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. NY : Charles Scribner's Sons, 1994.

Valuable research aid with statewide maps showing county boundaries at each colonial, federal and state census. Contains a user's guide demonstrates how boundary changes are depicted. Consolidated chronology of all boundary changes. Large scale maps are easy to look at and understand. Tables of county creations and tables of census are informative. Features a bibliography of sources. Serves everyone from genealogists to students with an unusual view of history.
G1201 F7 A8 1993 Conn

Farrell, Robert H. And Richard Natkiel. Atlas of American History. NY : Facts on File Publications, 1990.
Arranged by historical periods, Colonial, Civil War, the two world wars etc. A three to five page essay for each period is followed by maps, drawings and photos. Can be accessed through the index by topic and illustrations. Two sections, populations of the U. S. and presidential elections of 1988, suffer from serious lag time. However earlier sections are still relevant, clear and useful.
Ref G1201 S1 F4 1990

Martis, Kenneth C. The historical atlas of political parties in the United States Congress 1789-1989. NY : Macmillan, 1989.
Provides political affiliation/party for each district member of congress through the 100th, 1989. In four parts: (Part I) descriptive introduction to the history of political parties; (Part II) national political party maps; (Parts III and IV) tables that show sources used to check and verify party affiliations. Has a bibliography, a general index and personal name index. A source that could be over looked but has valuable and interesting information to offer.
Ref 1201 F8 M26 1989

National Geographic Society Historical atlas of the United States.
Washington : National Geographic Society, 1988.
Heavily illustrated with charts, graphs and maps as well as paintings and photographs. Accompanied by relevant text. Also features chronologies and time lines. Has an accompanying 18 map portfolio for the entire U. S. and regions. Material is well chosen and clearly presented. The bibliography cites illustration sources. Features indexes for topics, illustrations and text. A source no one could go wrong using.
Ref G1201 S1 N3 1988

Paullin, Charles Oscar. Atlas of the historical geography of the United States. Westport CT : Greenwood, 1975.
Considered the classic publication of its kind. The first atlas of American history considered adequate. Good maps, some reproductions of early ones. A descriptive text is featured with each. Indexed well including a source list. Should be a first stop for information to this kind.
Ref G1201 S1 P385

This remarkable continent: an atlas of United States and Canadian society and culture. Galveston, TX : Texas A & M University Press, 1982.
The 390 black and white maps are grouped into 13 chapters. Sources for these maps are given at the end of the volume. Maps were chosen to depict how inhabitants of this continent both past and present differ from place to place. Topics covered include origins, traditions, beliefs, thought and behavior. Well indexed, extremely useful with information not found elsewhere.
G1201 E1 T5 1982

HANDBOOKS

Austin, Erik, W. Political facts of the United States since 1789. NY : Columbia University Press, 1986.
Mainly in tabular form this is a collection of selected data concerning politics and government at the national level. Divided into sections that include such topics as parties and elections, foreign affairs, taxation and national leadership. Tables can be found by using the table of contents however lack of an index does not allow for quick references and diminishes the usefulness of this source which otherwise is valuable because of its wealth of data.
Ref E183 A97 1986

Cassara, Ernes. History of the United States of America: a guide to information sources. Detroit : Gale Research Co., 1977.
Volume 3 in the American Studies Information Guide Series, this guide is useful to both laymen and students. Divided into three parts; chapter 1 provides reference works for particular events and person; chapter 2 features comprehensive works for background work on selected topics; chapter 3-9 are arranged to follow the chronology of American history. Included here are specialized works that detail particular events. Features an author and short title index with separate subject index.
Good starting point.
Ref Z1236 C33

Makower, Joel ed. The American history sourcebook. NY : Prentice Hall, 1988.

This is a directory of approximately 3,000 libraries, museums and historical societies. A brief description of each is given along with addresses, phone numbers, hours and access. Arranged first by state, then alphabetically within state. Includes a key dates in American history sections as well as an alphabetical list of bibliographies, guides, and manuals. Features subject and organization name index. A good source to advance research.

Ref Z1236 A5144 1988

Prucha, Francis Paul. Handbook for research in American history: a guide to bibliographies and other reference works 2nd. ed., revised. Lincoln : University of Nebraska Press, 1994.

Presented in essay form this handbook deals with categories of materials such as manuscripts, library catalogs and newspapers. This book offers itself as a "bibliography of bibliographies." One of the prime works to guide researchers to useful sources. Features up to date information on Internet and CD ROM's.

Ref Z1236 P78 1994

Zophey, Angela Howard ed. Handbook of American women's history. NY : Garland, 1990.

Covers concepts, events, organizations and people. Alphabetically arranged has signed articles with appended bibliographies. Includes cross reference and subject index. A good source for hard to find and little know information on the topic.

HQ1410 H36 1990

CHRONOLOGIES

Brune, Lester H. Chronological history of United States foreign relations. 3 vols. NY : Garland 1985-1991.

A listing accompanied by some brief descriptions of events both in the United States and in foreign countries that impacted on American political life and foreign policy. Includes topical indexes though finding them is a chore and bibliographies that are featured but not consistent with the three volumes. This source takes some work to use but the information is important.

Carruth, Gorton. The encyclopedia of American facts and dates. 9th ed. NY : Harper Collins, 1993.

This has a wonderfully detailed index making its astonishing amount of information easy to find. Chronologically arranged in columns this covers not only commonly found topics such as settlements, wars, civil rights and government but also harder to find topics such as art, music fashions and holidays. Information is up to date to Nov. 1, 1992.

Ref E174.5 C3 1993

Webster's guide to American History: a chronological, geographical and biographical survey and compendium. Springfield, MA : G & C. Meriam Co., 1971.

This one volume source is divided into three distinct sections. Part I is a detailed and illustrated chronology covering the years 1492-1969. Here in sequence, significant events are described in order of occurrence, specific days and dates are noted. In parallel columns are quotes from excerpts of speeches, letters and other documents that bear upon these events. Part II contains tables and maps and is divided into chronological and topical sections. Part III offers biographies of 1,035 notable Americans. This has an excellent cross referenced index, crucial to a source such as this. This index ties this entire guide together and makes it a valuable accessible source.

Ref E174.5 W4

DIRECTORIES

Directory of archives and manuscript repositories in the United States. 2nd. ed. Phoenix : Oryx, 1988.

A companion to A Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States. Includes 4,225 repositories in the U. S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Island. Arranged first by state then city and institution. Gives addresses the phone numbers, hours access, copy facilities and total holdings. Straight forward basic information for those looking for more information.

Meckler, Alan M. And Ruth McMullin eds. Oral history collections. NY : Bowker, 1975.

Divided into two main sections. First features the name and subject index. This includes not only the name of the person interviewed but also names mentioned prominently within the interviews. Part two is a directory of oral history centers which are divided into U. S. and foreign centers. Though the information that can be located through this work is interesting and important it is not an easy source to use and is more for the serious researcher. However students should consider oral history as a rich source.

Ref A13 M4

Smith, Allen. Directory of oral history collections. Phoenix : Oryx Press, 1988.

Information assembled in this volume was gleaned from questionnaires sent to members of the Oral History Association and institutions listed in library and oral history directories. Information is provided for collections of materials large and small both public and private with adequate cataloging and indexing to allow access to researchers. Entries include address, phone numbers, staff, hours, size of collection, types of catalogs, conditions of access as well as any unique information of use for potential users. Entries are arranged by state then by city and collection tile. A subject index allows access by names of collections, institutions, projects, city, country and geographic area. Some 500 collections are covered. More for the serious researcher however important to know that such sources exist.

Ref Z6208 O7 S54 1988

BIOGRAPHIES

Dictionary of American biography. 21 vols. NY : Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928-1937. Supplements. 1-8. 1944-1980.

Recognized as one of America's leading reference sources this set records the lives of more than 18,000 celebrated men and women who've made significant contributions to the shaping of American history. Over 700 fields of endeavors are covered. Each biography is signed and written by a specialist in the field. The comprehensive index contains six separate indexes to afford the greatest of ease in finding a subject. A must consult for any research concerning the people in American history.

Ref E176 D563

Concise dictionary of American biography. 2nd. ed. NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1977.

A companion to the Dictionary of American Biography. This volume provides the essential facts of each biography in the larger work. This is a ready reference source for students and researchers who needs quick information such as dates of birth and death, ancestry, education and accomplishments of notable Americans. Bibliographies are omitted however an occupational index is provided.

Ref E176 D564 1977

Wilson, Elyde N. ed. American historians 1607-1865. Detroit : Gale, 1984.

Lengthy signed essays with bibliographies on 46 writers who's reflections on American history led to important historical insights. Interesting reading. A source well worth looking at for a different overview of history.

Ref E17.45 A48 1984

Wunder, John R. Historians of the American frontier. NY : Greenwood, 1988.

Covers 57 historians in essay form. Analyzes the works of each and covers themes treated. Bibliographies contain not only writings by these historians but also writings about them. There is an index for topics as well as one for the titles cited in the bibliographies. Well researched and organized this is an interesting and well a valuable source.

Ref E175.45 H57 1988

INDEXES AND ABSTRACTS

America: history and life: a guide to periodical literature. Santa Babara, CA :

ABC-Clio, 1964-. Quarterly.

Abstracts articles on the history of the U. S. And Canada published world wide. More than 2,200 publications are now surveyed.

Arranged by broad geographical areas and chronological periods then subdivided by topic and then format. Currently issued in five parts.

Parts 1 - 4 contain abstracts and citation. Part 5 is the annual index.

Includes articles, book reviews and dissertations for print as well as films, videos and non print media. A valuable tool.

Historical abstracts. Santa Barbra, CA : ABC-Clio, 1955-. Quarterly.

Indexes some 2,200 journals and beginning with volume 31 (1980) includes citations for books and dissertations. Issue in two parts; Part A modern history abstracts 1450-1914; Part B Twentieth century abstracts. No. 4 of each volume is a cumulative index. Because the 1450 to present scope was not added until 1991 volumes 26-30 provide retrospective indexing for prior issues. The vast range in both time and content makes this a valuable source.

Compiled by Daisy G. Delano