

Famous First Facts

Reflecting the content of the ***Famous First Facts*** print editions, the electronic ***Famous First Facts*** offers fast access to entries on thousands of inventions, discoveries, and first happenings in American history—from the date of the earliest human artifacts found in America, in 10,000 B.C., through 1997. Searches may be done by subject categories, keywords, personal names, city, state, date, and year.

Go to: RCPL (<http://www.myrpl.com>)

Click: **Research Tools**

Click: **General Reference Tools**

Scroll to: **Famous First Facts**

Click: **Inside the Library OR Home Access**

Computer commands, field names and mouse actions are in *Italics*.
Text that you must type is within single quote marks (' ').

1. Where and when was the first library established in South Carolina?

- Click *Advanced Search*.
- When the *Advanced Search* screen appears, type 'library' in the uppermost *Find* box.
- From the *State* drop-down menu select *South Carolina*.
- Leave all other options at their default settings and click one of the *Start* buttons.
- Results will be presented as a *Search* list. Clicking each will reveal historical information and expand the entry about South Carolina libraries, including the fact that the first South Carolina library was also the first U.S. library.

2. Who invented the first shopping cart?

- Click *Basic Search*.
- Type 'shopping cart' in the *Find* box.
- Click one of the *Start* buttons. Results will be displayed as a *Search* list, the first having a relevancy ranking of 100%. Selecting this one brings up the expanded entry which gives facts as well as the subjects assigned to that topic (*Subject(s)* field).

3. I would like to see a complete list of subject headings covered by *Famous First Facts*.

- Click the *Browse* button on the left of the screen.
- Leave the *Browse For* box blank and the *In* box at its default setting (*Subjects*).
- Click one of the *Start* buttons. A *Results: Browse* listing of all subjects covered by *Famous First Facts* will appear. The list can be advanced or retraced by clicking the forward and back arrows at the bottom of the screen.

4. I need a list of *Famous First Facts* associated with Savannah, Georgia.

- Click *Basic Search*.
- Type 'savannah' in the *Find* box.
- Click one of the *Start* buttons.

This tutorial is one of many online resources offered by the
Richland County Public Library, Columbia, SC. (803) 929-3478.
<http://www.myrpl.com>

- The *Search* screen will list clickable links with relevancy rankings for Savannah.
- An alternative search strategy employs the *Advanced Search* option. At the *City* box, select *Savannah* from the drop-down menu, and at the *State* box, select *Georgia* from the drop-down menu. Leave all other settings at default and click one of the *Start* buttons. This search retrieves fewer matches.

5. Who invented the first washing machine?

- Click *Basic Search*.
- Type 'washing machine' in the *Find* box.
- Click one of the *Start* buttons.
- Matches with a relevancy ranking of 100% will be listed. Clicking each of these will expand the entry to provide information on *the first electric washing machine, the first automatic washing machine, etc.*

6. I would like a list of all firsts related to helicopters.

- Click the *Thesaurus* button at the left of the screen.
- Type 'helicopter' or 'helicopters' in the *Search Thesaurus For* box.
- Click one of the *Start* buttons.
- The *Thesaurus Results* page will retrieve matches in which 'helicopter' appears as part of the official subject heading.

7. I'm a history student and must make a report on some important happenings for the year 1914.

- Click *Advanced Search*.
- Type '1914' in the *Year* box and leave all other settings at blank or default.
- Click one of the *Start* buttons.
- The *Search* screen will list a number of links, each with a relevancy ranking of 100%.