

## History Resource Center

**US History-** covers United States history from colonial times to the present. The database includes the text of many primary sources (letters, diaries, memoirs, speeches or other first-hand account of events) as well as articles written by historians (secondary sources).

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

- Go to: **RCPL** (<http://www.myrcl.com>)
- Click on: **Research Tools**
- Click on: **History**
- Scroll down to: **History Resource Center - US**
- Click on: **inside the library** OR **home access**

★ To begin a new search after each question below, click the *Home* button near top of database screen.

**1. A hairdresser wrote a memoir or diary in the 1800's but I can't remember her name. What was it?**

- In the *Basic Search* field, type 'hairdresser'
- Click *Search* button
- Select the *Primary Sources* tab
- Select *A Hairdresser's Experience in High Life* (a memoir)
- Select *View Commentary*, or *View Image*

**2. During the American Revolution, who led the American side against the British in the Battle of Camden?**

- In the *Basic Search* field, type "battle of Camden" (use quotation marks to keep phrase together)
- Click *Search* button

Note: Within the *Reference* tab there are several sources. There is also a diary within the *Primary Source* tab.

**3. I need a brief description of the Trail of Tears.**

- Select the *Subject* button
- Type "trail of tears" (use quotation marks to keep phrase together) in the *Enter Subject Term(s)* field
- Click *Search* button
- Select *Trail of Tears 1838-1839*
- Select any search with *Trail of Tears* in the title **and** is described as a *Topic Overview*

**EXAMPLE:**

The screenshot shows two search results for the term "Trail of Tears". Each result is preceded by a checkbox and the title "Trail of Tears." in purple. The first result is from the "Dictionary of American History" (7 vols., Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976). The second result is from the "Encyclopedia of the American West" (4 vols., Macmillan Reference USA, 1996). To the right of each result is a red circle containing the text "Topic Overview".

**4. I have to write a paper about someone who lived during the Reconstruction era (post-Civil War). Can you help me find a biography from that time period?**

- Select *Subject Search* button
- Type 'reconstruction'
- Select *American Reconstruction, 1865-1877*
- Select *the Biographies* tab

Note: A list of over 30 biographies will appear.

**5. Do you have any diaries written during the 1800's?**

- Select *Advanced Search* button
- Type 'diary' in 1<sup>st</sup> search box;
- Leave *Full Text* as the default in middle box
- Scroll down
- In *Time Period* field: type '1800' in *FROM* field; type '1899' in *TO* field
- Click *Search* button
- Select *Primary Sources* tab

Note: A list of diaries, as well as other first hand accounts of this time period, will appear.

**6. My class has to use the *History in Dispute* reference books to find pro/con articles about Middle East events. However, the volumes I need are being used by someone else. Can you help me?**

- Find the *Search a Reference Work* section (database home page).
- Scroll down to *History in Dispute*
- Select *Vol. 15, The Middle East Since WWII, Part One OR Part Two*
- Click the *Search* button to see all pro/con articles in a volume (approx 30 articles). You may also elect to type a search term(s) in order to narrow your list of results.