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.myrcpl.com)

Click on: Research and Learning

Click on: Research Tools

Click on: *History*

Scroll down to: *History Resource Center – US* Click on: *inside the library* OR *home access*

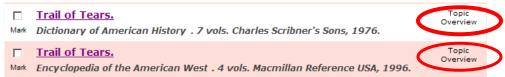
- ★ To begin a new search after each question below, click the Home button near top of database screen.
 - 1. A hairdresser wrote a memoir or diary in the 1800's but I can't remember her name. What was it?
 - In the Basic Search field, type 'hairdresser'
 - Click Search button
 - □ Select the *Primary 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 Sources* 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 result described as a *Topic Overview* (see example below)



EXAMPLE:



- 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 US'
 - □ Select American Reconstruction, 1865-1877
 - □ Select the Biographies tab

Note: A list of over 50 biographies will appear.

- 5. Do you have any diaries written during the 1800's?
 - Select Advanced Search button
 - □ Type 'diary' in 1st search box;
 - □ In Time Period field: type '1800' in FROM field; type '1899' in TO field
 - Click Search button
 - □ Select Primary Sources tab
 - Select any result described as Diary
- 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?
 - From Home page, find the Search a Reference Work section (see below).
 - Scroll down to History in Dispute, Vol. 14: The Middle East Since WWII, Part One
 OR Part Two
 - □ Type a search term(s) in order to narrow your list of results.



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