



Introduction to Using Library Databases and the Internet

Many libraries subscribe to specialized databases that are accessible online to members of the library, like students at colleges and community members with public library cards. Some library databases focus on numerous subjects of general interest to library users, while others specialize in collecting information about one broad subject area.

All library databases are searched by combining several keywords together. When starting a search it is extremely helpful to think up as many relevant keywords as possible that could be useful in a search. Most good library research involves a series of searches based on finding and using more and more relevant keywords.

The references found in library databases usually refer to books or journal articles. Sometimes the articles are available online. Librarians will help people find the books and articles they are interested in reading.

The Internet has vast information and is also searched with keywords. To narrow in on good information on the Internet people should use as many relevant keywords as possible to describe their subject interest.



When using a library database, use two or more topics to define your research topic.

In this search the two topics were Mexican Americans and Pacific Northwest.

Washington State Univ. Vancouver

America: History and Life

Keyword 

Subject Terms 

Author/Editor

Title/Translation

Language 

Document Type 

Journal Name 

Publication Date

Time Period 

Entry Number

Join fields with ☒ AND ☐ OR [\[Help \]](#)

[\[Simple Search \]](#) [\[Advanced Search \]](#) [\[CLIO Alert Profile \]](#)

S E A R C H



These articles look good. There are five of them.
We will look in more detail at the second one, the Gamboa article.

America: History and Life

Short Entry Display

☐ Tagged

Display Full Entry

1 of 5

Type: Article

Author: Estrada, Daniél and Santillán, Richard.

Title: CHICANOS IN THE NORTHWEST AND THE MIDWEST UNITED STATES: A HISTORY OF CULTURAL AND POLITICAL COMMONALITY.

Citation: Perspectives in Mexican American Studies 1997 6: 195-228.

ISSN: 0889-8448

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Display Full Entry

2 of 5

Type: Article

Author: Gamboa, Erasmo.

Title: MEXICAN MULE PACKERS AND OREGON'S SECOND REGIMENT



When we look in the subject headings (in blue) for this article we see that the word Oregon is used.

Author: Gamboa, Erasmo.

Title: MEXICAN MULE PACKERS AND OREGON'S SECOND REGIMENT MOUNTED VOLUNTEERS, 1855-1856.

Citation: Oregon Historical Quarterly 1991 92(1): 41-59.

Abstract: Features the contribution to early Pacific Northwest frontier and military history by the **Mexican** members of the US Army Quartermaster Corps, who transported supplies to Oregon's 2d Mounted Volunteers from December 1855 to May 1856, during the later part of the Rogue River War in southern Oregon. The war erupted because of a long-standing pattern of conflicts pitting settlers and miners against Native **Americans**.

Documentation: Based on letters, payroll records, other primary sources, and secondary sources; 6 photos, reproduction, map, 51 notes, appendix.

Abstracter: S

Language: English

Period: 1855-56.

Subject: [Pacific Northwest](#),
[Oregon Mounted Volunteers, 2d](#),
[Oregon \(Rogue Valley\)](#),
[Mexicans](#),
[Indian Wars](#),
[Army Quartermaster Corps](#).



Perhaps if we add some of the names of the States in the Pacific Northwest to our search we will find more good articles.

America: History and Life

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Keyword | <input type="text" value="mexican americans"/> | |
| Subject Terms | <input type="text" value="pacific northwest or oregon or idaho"/> | |
| Author/Editor | <input type="text"/> | |
| Title/Translation | <input type="text"/> | |
| Language | <input type="text"/> | |
| Document Type | <input type="text"/> | |
| Journal Name | <input type="text"/> | |
| Publication Date | <input type="text"/> | |
| Time Period | <input type="text"/> | |
| Entry Number | <input type="text"/> | |

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SEARCH



Now we have twelve good articles. So it paid off to add the specific names of some States.

America: History and Life

Short Entry Display

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1 of 12

Type: Article

Author: Dash, Robert C. and Hawkinson, Robert E.

Title: MEXICANS AND "BUSINESS AS USUAL": SMALL TOWN POLITICS IN OREGON.

Citation: Aztlán 2001 26(2): 87-123.

ISSN: 0005-2604

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Display Full Entry

2 of 12

Type: Article

Author: Estrada, Daniél and Santillán, Richard.

Title: CHICANOS IN THE NORTHWEST AND THE MIDWEST UNITED STATES: A HISTORY OF CULTURAL AND POLITICAL COMMONALITY.



Here is one of seven articles we would not have found if we had only used the Pacific Northwest topic.

Title: MEXICANS AND "BUSINESS AS USUAL": SMALL TOWN POLITICS IN OREGON.

Citation: Aztlán 2001 26(2): 87-123.

Abstract: Examines whether relatively small cities and special districts in the United States have impacted **Mexican** American and **Mexican** migrant worker political mobilization and, if so, whether the size of a jurisdictional area facilitated or hindered political mobilization. The article identifies two alternative theories of small-unit politics in the United States and analyzes political mobilization of **Mexican** American residents and **Mexican** migrants in the small city of Woodburn, Oregon, with particular emphasis on housing and educational issues. The study's findings substantiate a skeptical assessment of democratic small-unit politics and decentralization theory. Woodburn exhibited a bias against political mobilization, which sharply curtailed the **Mexican** community's participation in the policy process.

Documentation: Based on newspapers, other primary sources, and secondary sources; 116 notes, ref.

Abstracter: R. Silva

Language: English

Period: 19c-20c.

Subject: [Oregon \(Woodburn\).](#)
[Mexican Americans.](#)
[Political Participation.](#)