## 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.

no

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

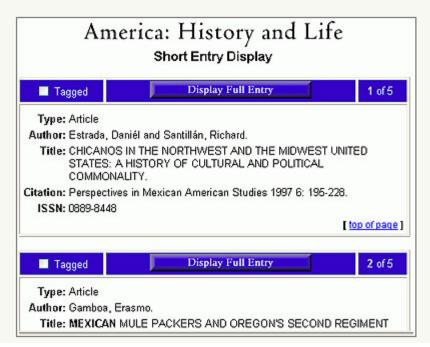
In this search the two topics were Mexican Americans and Pacific Northwest.

Keyword	mexican americans		
Subject Terms	pacific northwest		S
Author/Editor			
Title/Translation			E
Language		<b>Q</b>	A
Document Type		<u>Q</u>	R
Journal Name			
Publication Date			C
Time Period		•	I I
Entry Number			





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





## 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

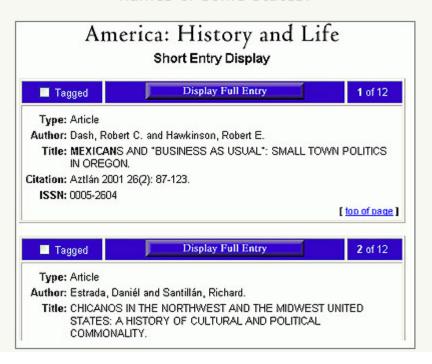


Perhaps if we add some of the names of the States in the Pacific Northwest to our search we will find more good articles.

Keyword	mexican americans		
Subject Terms	pacific northwest or oregon or idaho	Q	S
Author/Editor		Q	
Title/Translation			$ \mathbf{E} $
Language		Q	$ \mathbf{A} $
Document Type		<u>Q</u>	$ \mathbf{R} $
Journal Name		Q	
Publication Date			
Time Period		<b>Q</b>	$ \mathbf{H} $
Entry Number			
Join fields with	⊙ AND ○ OR	[Help]	



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





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.