

FYSP 153, Fall 2014  
**Worldview and History, D. Kelley**  
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**Strategies for doing historiographical research**

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***Find reference works containing bibliographies of key sources***

Use the suggestions below on this handout, search OBIS for an encyclopedia on your topic

***Find a printed bibliography or annotated bibliography***

Search OBIS for the term bibliography and your subject keywords, or use the bibliography of a major world history text

***Find a published historiography of the topic***

You don't need to reinvent the wheel! Search OBIS for topic with keyword "historiography"

***Find book reviews***

*JSTOR* - advanced search and check the box "Reviews"

*Academic Search Complete* - Advanced Search, limit to Document Type "Book Review"

*Summon* – Search for the title and author of the book

***Find works that have been cited frequently***

Use Google Scholar's "Times Cited" feature to get a sense of how much attention the work has gotten from other scholars

***Find "literature review" articles***

These are articles that summarize important developments and key researchers on a particular subject.

***Use your authors' historiographies***

Find a key book on the subject and scan the preface, introduction and appendices

***Look at who is being cited in bibliographies of books and articles***

You will find patterns, certain works or authors may be frequently cited, find which authors and works are identified in the introduction or preface

***Identify important authors and seek other works by those authors***

Use OBIS to search for books, or databases to find articles by authors that seem to be important in your research topic area

***Find recent scholarship***

Use the bibliography of a recent article to identify relevant sources; the author may have already collected the best scholarship on a topic and you can take advantage of that

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## Reference resources

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### [Oxford Reference Online](#)

Includes Online access to [Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World](#), 2008

*A global encyclopedia of historical writing* / New York : Garland Pub., 1998

Main Reference      D13 .G47 1998 vol. 1

*The Oxford history of historical writing* / Daniel Woolf, editor / Oxford University Press, 2011-

Main Library      D13 .O34 2011 5 Vols.

*History and historians in the twentieth century* / Peter Burke, Ed. / Oxford University Press, 2002

Main Library      D16.8 .H62427 2002

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## Cambridge Histories Online

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<http://histories.cambridge.org>

PDFs of every essay in the highly regarded Cambridge Histories book series, which covers all time periods, had broad geographical and thematic coverage.

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## Finding books and other materials

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[OBIS](#) – Catalog of Oberlin libraries' holdings

[OhioLink Library Catalog](#) - statewide resource sharing system

- Do-it-yourself searching and requesting of materials held in OhioLink libraries
- Materials arrive in 3-4 business days on average
- Loan period is 3 weeks, and with up to 6 renewals

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## Find full text articles from a citation

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Search the [Journal Finder](#), a tab on the library homepage search box. Enter the title of the journal (not the article)

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## Databases for finding journal articles

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### [Academic Search Complete](#)

Large multidisciplinary database with lots of full-text.

### [America: History & Life](#)

Database of journal articles, covering primarily the history of US and Canada

### [Google Scholar](#)

Google's database of books and articles use the "cited by" feature to find out how frequently, and by whom, a work has been cited.

### [Historical Abstracts](#)

Database of journal articles, covering world history 1450-present (excluding US and Canada)

### [JSTOR](#)

Provides searchable full-text articles starting with the first volume and usually excluding the most recent 3-5 years of a journal

### [Summon](#)

Search engine that searches most of the content that the library has access to. Excellent for finding book reviews and locating full text.

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## Get research advice

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- Sign up for a [Research Appointment](#)  
Consult with a librarian about your research project; work on identifying sources and plan research strategies
- **Drop in** at the Research Desk
- **Email** librarians [reference@oberlin.edu](mailto:reference@oberlin.edu)
- **Chat** with us on IM (on library homepage)
- **Call us** (440) 775-5031

### **In-Class Searching:**

Oxford Reference Online – search for influenza

Cambridge Histories Online – search your topic, or Islam in World History (if no topic)

Historical Abstracts – search (empire or imper\*) and slavery

Summon – find book reviews of The World That Trade Created (Pomeranz and Topik)

Google Scholar – Search The Myth of Continents (Lewis and Wigen)