A research guide is an introduction to researching a topic. It lists the best introductory sources to help you start your research, but it is not a comprehensive bibliography of the topic. Reference works include encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, and almanacs; they are available in the reference section. Books in circulation are in the library stacks, and they may be checked out. Call numbers are places to check in the library for further research. Subject headings are suggested terms to use when searching the library catalog. Periodicals are published regularly, and they are usually indexed. Electronic resources are subscription databases available from the library’s website. Websites are recommended sources available free online. Other resources are places in the Mack Library that you can check for further research. Please ask a reference librarian for further help.

Scope

Women’s history studies the experiences of women—cultural, intellectual, religious, political, social, economic, and aesthetic. The field is growing as more historians look for women’s influence on the past. As a result, more journals and books are being published on the topic, and general works of history are almost certain to discuss women as well as men.

This research guide lists basic sources to begin the study of women’s history. It focuses primarily on American history, though many works of world history are also included. Only works specifically about women’s history have been included, though many general histories and reference works include information about women. Also, only general works on women’s history have been included. Specific works, including historical monographs, may be found by searching the catalog by keyword or by using the suggested subject headings.

Reference Works

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
The broadest reference work available for biographies of women, from ancient times to the present. The articles, which can be quite lengthy, include biographical précis and lists of selected works. Besides biographies of individuals, the encyclopedia also includes collective biographies of groups of women, for example, astronauts. The first volume contains genealogical charts, organized by nation or empire, and a helpful user’s guide. The last volume contains indexes by era, geography, occupation, and name. |
This encyclopedia attempts a synthesis of world history and women’s history. It therefore contains articles on topics of interest from each field, including many that take a comparative perspective. Some of the articles are biographical, but most are topical. The first volume contains a lengthy chronology. The last volume contains an index and a topical outline of entries. |
Includes brief biographical sketches of notable women, with annotated bibliographies of recommended biographies. |

Bob Jones University, J. S. Mack Library  
Last updated 24 June 2008
A very detailed guide to finding sources on women’s history. Also valuable as an overview of the types of sources available for the topic. Contains many photographs. Arranged by department in the Library of Congress.

REF 305.402 F848

This chronology includes many more events than with Saari and Gall’s chronology, but its descriptions are limited to a sentence or two. A lengthy bibliography is also included.

REF 305.409 Sa343

This encyclopedia offers basic articles for ancient women’s history.

REF 305.409 W8427

This work lists women’s achievements chronologically, with several paragraphs of description for most events.

REF 305.40973 C617

This reference work has four parts. The first includes a historiographical essay and a ten-chapter narrative history. The second part is a brief biographical dictionary, and the third is a brief chronology. The fourth is a list of resources, including an annotated bibliography.

REF 305.40973 En198


This set is perhaps the most useful source for women’s history in the United States. Each volume has three parts: a set of essays, topical and biographical articles, and a collection of documents. Each also contains a selected bibliography. The final volume also contains a biographical index for the complete set.

REF 305.40973

Though this work covers only some four hundred lives, it offers detailed biographies, including annotated bibliographies.

REF 305.42 H226

Covers mostly second- and third-wave feminism. Arranged topically around “issues” in feminism, with a section of biographical sketches.

A valuable source for women’s biographies from classical Greece and Rome. Also includes a useful bibliography. Each entry includes a list of classical writings that refer to the subject.


This narrowly focused work offers over two thousand biographies of second-wave feminists. Many of the biographies are based on first-hand accounts.


Includes both topical and biographical entries. The second volume has a topical outline of articles.


This work “moves beyond . . . familiar women to discuss a range of ‘unsung’ women,” and so it omits biographies of important figures such as Elizabeth I, Isabella of Castile, Joan of Arc, Lady Jane Grey, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Heloise, and Christine de Pizan. Despite this serious flaw, the work does contain lengthy articles about minor figures in Europe, Asia, and Africa.


This encyclopedia is not comprehensive in the women rulers that it includes, and its articles are not detailed. It does include women rulers from ancient times to the present. Unless one is looking specifically for basic information about a women ruler, Commire’s *Women in World History* is probably a better source. Indexes by name and region are included.


Includes indexes listing entries by “areas of specialization,” decade of birth, state/province of birth, and tribal affiliation.


Includes only the most basic information about the subjects, but includes indexes by date, country, and name. Each entry has references to larger sketches of the individual.


Valuable for brief biographies of Christian women. This source does not give references to more detailed works.

Biographical sketches of some 2,500 women scientists. In addition to sciences such as engineering, medicine, physics, and biology, other fields such as mathematics, psychology, anthropology, and home economics are included.

REF 927 D5616  

Includes biographical sketches of artists, with lists of works, exhibitions, and writings. The first volume contains a series of essays surveying women artists. Contains many photographs of artwork.

REF 973.7082  

Includes biographical and topical articles, as well as a series of essays to give context to the entries.

Books in Circulation

305.40973 C6934  

A general history of women in America.

305.40973 Se24  

This collection of documents has excerpts from pre-contact Native Americans to the late twentieth century. The collection focuses on social history and the daily lives of women.

305.40973 L971  

Brief descriptions of two hundred events in women’s history, from 1607 to 1993.

396 Sm63  

A historical overview of women’s history in America.

907.202 V8708  
Boris, Eileen, and Nupur Chaudhuri, eds. Voices of Women Historians: The Personal, the Political, the Professional. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1999.

Essays by women historians about their professional experiences.

Call Numbers and Subject Headings

305.4, 920.72

Women—Biography  
Women—History  
Women—History—Middle Ages  
Women—History—Renaissance  
Women—History—17th Century  
Women—History—18th Century  
Women—United States

Women—United States—Biography  
Women—United States—Correspondence  
Women—United States—History  
Women—United States—History—Civil War  
Women—United States—History—Revolution  
Women—United States—History—Sources  
Women—United States—History—17th Century
Periodicals


A journal for international women’s and gender history. Though not available in print in the Mack Library, an index to the journal can be accessed through Academic OneFile, General OneFile, and General Reference Center.


A multi-disciplinary journal that covers women’s history in the nineteenth through twenty-first centuries, with the goal of advancing “feminist knowledge and debate.” Though not available in print in the Mack Library, an index to the journal can be accessed through MLA International Bibliography.

Electronic Resources


A collection of resources providing coverage of events, themes and trends in world history from antiquity to the present, with a multicultural and global view.


Provides integrated access to over 4,000 historical (primary) documents, articles from more than 30 reference titles, and over 110 full-text journal covering themes, events, individuals and periods in U.S. history from pre-Colonial times to the present. The material also includes citations from over 180 additional history journals from the Institute for Scientific Information's Arts and Humanities Citation Index, as well as the entire "American Journey Online" series.


The world’s largest academic multi-disciplinary database, Academic Search Premier provides full text for nearly 4,700 publications, including full text for more than 3,600 peer-reviewed journals. Coverage spans virtually every area of academic study and offers information dating as far back as 1975. This database is updated on a daily basis via EBSCOhost.

*Academic OneFile*. http://find.galegroup.com/itx/start.do?prodId=AONE&userGroupName=bju_main

Academic OneFile is the premier source for peer-reviewed, full-text articles from the world’s leading journals and reference sources. With extensive coverage of the physical sciences, technology, medicine, social sciences, the arts, theology, literature and other subjects, Academic OneFile is both authoritative and comprehensive. With millions of articles available in both PDF and HTML full-text with no restrictions, researchers are able to find accurate information quickly.

Other Resources at the Mack Library

| Biographies | Second floor |

Bob Jones University, J. S. Mack Library

Last updated 24 June 2008
The biography section contains many biographies of women. Search the catalog for the person, or browse the biographies alphabetically.

**Early American Imprints**

Periodicals Room

This microfiche collection contains the full text of all extant works printed in British North American and the United States before 1819. See Charles Evans’s *American Bibliography* (015.73 Ev15) and Ralph Shaw and Richard Shoemaker’s *American Bibliography* (015.73 N483) to find works. This source is invaluable for the history of America in the colonial era and the early republic.

**Websites**


http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/index.html

Library of Congress. “American Memory: Women’s History.”

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/ListItem.php?category=Womens%20History


Research guides and portals to online resources for women’s history at the Library of Congress.


http://mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women.html

A research guide by a librarian at Middle Tennessee State University. Contains thousands of citations and links to both primary and secondary sources. Organized by subject and state.