America: History and Life

Why This Database?

America: History and Life is the most comprehensive bibliography of secondary literature about North American history. It includes entries for book reviews, dissertations, journal articles, and conference papers and proceedings, most of which are abstracted.

Types of Searches

Title
- Select “TI Title” field.
- Search by a distinctive part of the title, but not usually by the subtitle. Example: America’s God, not America’s God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln.

Abstract
- Select “AB Abstract” field.
- Search by a keyword that the abstracter would have used. Use this search method only if others are unsuccessful.

Author
- Select “AU Author/Editor/Reviewer” field.
- Search by last name, first name. Example: Noll, Mark.

Subject
- Select “SU Subject” field.
- Search by a subject term. Example: Hamilton, Alexander. Combine synonyms with the OR operator. Example: finance OR banking

Narrowing a Search

Combine Search Terms
- Use Boolean operators within a search box to combine terms in the same field. Example: Hamilton AND public credit.
- Use Boolean operators between search boxes to combine terms in different fields. Example: Federalist Party NOT New England.
- Use the subject suggestions in the left column. Example: Federalist Party, then sectionalism.

Use Search Limiters
- Limiters are available from the advanced search page or on any page of search results.
- Linked Full Text. Checking this box limits results to those available in electronic full text.
- Historical Period. Enter either an era (e.g., 19c) or a range of dates. The results will include only those articles that include that period. Articles that also extend beyond that period will not be excluded.
- Peer Reviewed. Checking this box limits results to peer reviewed publications.
- Document Type / Publication Type. The document type limits the search to, say, articles or book reviews; the publication type limits the search to, say, journals or conference papers.
- Publication Date. Limit the years of publication with a search box or slider.

Using Your Results
- Click on the search result to read the item abstract.
- Icons at the top of the item will offer electronic full text, if available. The link “display library holdings” will search the library catalog for that journal.
- Icons at the top will print, e-mail, save, format, or export your citations.