Sources for US History

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Vere Harmsworth Library
Summary

• **Finding publications**
  – Books, journals, journal articles, theses, electronic resources

• **Primary sources**
  – E-resources, printed publications and microfilms in Oxford
  – Freely available on the web
  – Special collections and archives in Oxford and elsewhere
Finding secondary sources

Do you know what you’re looking for?

Yes

What type of publication?

Book or book chapter

Journal/journal article

Thesis

Other

No

SOLO

Bibliographic database

Google Scholar
## Finding books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WorldCat</td>
<td>worldcat.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPAC</td>
<td>copac.ac.uk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Library</td>
<td>explore.bl.uk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOLO</td>
<td>solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finding journals & journal articles

Journals

- Print
  - Search SOLO
- Electronic
  - SOLO or OxLIP+ (find e-journal)
- Bibliographic databases
  - (SOLO or) OxLIP+

Journal Articles

- SOLO:Articles & More
- Google Scholar

[Image of SOLO and Google Scholar interfaces]
Finding dissertations & theses

Oxford
- SOLO
  ora.ox.ac.uk

UK
- ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (UK & Ireland) (via OxLIP+)
- EThOS
  ethos.bl.uk

US
- ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (Global Full Text) (via OxLIP+)
SOLO search tips: before you search

Use to be more specific in what you are searching
• Search by material type – journals/theses etc…
• Restrict to search by exact phrase or starts with
• Search title/author/subject etc only

Limit your search by library

Use with caution!
SOLO search tips: before you search

DISCOVER THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD’S WORLD-CLASS LIBRARY RESOURCES

alexander hamilton

alexander hamilton › Search Everything
alexander hamilton › Oxford Collections
alexander hamilton › Articles

Find out about new features, planned maintenance and performance issues here:
✓ No known Issues

The latest feedback, discussions and useful tips from our conversations with the SOLO Community:
› You said...we did
› What am I searching?

More search options

Use with caution!
SOLO search tips: before you search

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  - Restrict to search by exact phrase or starts with
  - Search title/author/subject etc only
SOLO search tips: after you search

Change sort order to view by date oldest or date newest.

Click to view alternative editions (including print/electronic).

Refine after you search to limit results.
SOLO

**Search Tips: After You Search**

- **Sort & Filter Results**
  - **Sort by**: Relevance
  - **Show only**: Online Resources, Physical Items
  - Library
  - Resource Type
  - Creator
  - **Publication Date**: From, To
  - **Topic
  - Language
  - Collection

**Change Sort Order to View by Date Oldest or Date Newest**

1. **Multiple Versions**
   - A letter on the subject of banks and the currency, proposing the creation of a state bank of issues, and the restriction of private banks to circulation, discount, and deposits [electronic resource]
   - Hamilton, Alexander, 1786-1875.
   - (390) (1,032)

2. **Book**
   - Advertisement. September 29, 1743. [electronic resource] : The subscriber intending soon for Great-Britain, desires all persons indebted to him to discharge their respective debts ...
   - Hamilton, Alexander, 1712-1756.
   - (1743) | [Annapolis : Printed by Jonas Green | 1 sheet ([1] p.) ; 17 x 21 cm
   - Online access

3. **Multiple Versions**
   - The Federalist [electronic resource]
   - Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804. | ProQuest (Firm)
   - 78 versions of this record exist. See all versions

Click on a title to get further details, including location and shelfmarks.

Click to view alternative editions (including print/electronic).

Refine after you search to limit results.
More SOLO: using subjects

Use to find other books with the same subject heading
More SOLO: using subjects

Use to find other books with the same subject heading.

Subjects:
- Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804 -- Political and social views
- Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826 -- Political and social views
- Federal government -- United States -- Philosophy
- United States -- Politics and government -- 1789-1797
Finding primary sources

**Published sources**
- Print
- Microform
- Eresource/database
- Online/web

**Unpublished/manuscript**
- Where is the original/archive?
  - Oxford
  - UK
  - US
- Is there a reproduction available?
  - Print
  - Microform
  - Eresource/database
  - Online/web
Online Guide to US History Sources
libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ushistory

Finding books and journals
Use SOLO to search for books, journals and databases held in Oxford libraries (Bodleian, faculty libraries and college libraries).

Use author and/or title searches to find books:

author = carwardine + title = lincoln.

Use subject searches if you don't know the title or author:

subject = United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1868

Key journals via OU ejournals
- American Historical Review
- Early American Studies
- Journal of American History
- Journal of American Studies
- Journal of the Early Republic
- Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era
- Massachusetts Historical Review
- William & Mary Quarterly

Finding journal articles
Don't search for journal articles in SOLO Oxford Collections! If you know the journal it was published in, search by journal title. If you don't know where an article has been published in, the best way to locate journal articles by a particular author or on a particular subject, is to use a bibliographical database.

1. America: History & Life (c. 1450-current)
2. Bibliography of British & Irish History (useful for colonial American history)

Many journal articles may be found in SOLO Articles & More, but this is not comprehensive. If you cannot find the article you are looking for in Articles & More,
Think strategically...

- **When?** Timeframe (NB copyright)
- **Where?** Location/geographic focus
- **Who?** People – individuals, organisations, groups
- **Why?** Aspect – social, political
- **What?** Type of source – newspapers, letters, memoirs, official publications, images, audio-visual, ephemera, statistics/data

... but also laterally – where else?
Search tips

IT'S DANGEROUS TO GOOGLE SOLO

• Trial and error! Get to know the database/index
• What will bring back the right results? What terms does the database/index use?
• Try alternatives: historic terminology, spelling (US/UK)
• Always look for advanced search options, especially limiters

TAKE A LIBRARIAN WITH YOU
Use of Oxford e-resources

• Oxford subscribes to a wide range of e-resources, e-journals and e-books to support your research and study. Use of these is governed strictly by licence agreements.

• Remember:
  – E-resources may be used for study and research but NOT for commercial purposes
  – You may NOT share your password or pass content from e-resources to anyone else
  – Systematic downloading or viewing of excessive amounts of data is strictly forbidden

• Failure to comply may result in:
  – Referral to the University Proctors
  – Publishers withdrawing content from the whole university
Books as primary sources

- **OxLIP+:**
  - Early American Imprints I: Evans (1639-1800)
  - EEBO (1475-1700) and ECCO (1701-1800)
  - The Making of the Modern World (1450-1914)
  - The Making of Modern Law (1800-1926)

- **In the library:**
  - Print – search SOLO; pre-1920 books in VHL stack
  - Microforms
    - Travels in the Old South, New South, West & South west

- **On the web (generally pre-1922):**
  - Making of America ([http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/))
Newspapers

• Early American Newspapers (microfilms, e-access from British Library)
• 19th Century US Newspapers OxLIP+
• Historical Newspapers OxLIP+
• Chronicling America (chroniclingamerica.loc.gov) (1836-1922)
• Ethnic NewsWatch (1959-) OxLIP+
• Nexis UK, Factiva (c. Last 20 years) OxLIP+
• Elsewhere in the UK and on the web eg. Google News Archive (news.google.com/newspapers), newspapers.com (subscription required £)
Magazines and Periodicals

- American Antiquarian Society Historical Periodicals Collection (1684-1912) OxLIP+
- American Periodicals (1740-1940) OxLIP+
- Periodicals Archive Online OxLIP+
- News magazines
  - OxLIP+ The Nation, National Review, The New Republic, Vogue
  - Factiva, Business Source Complete, ABI/INFORM, Nexis OxLIP+
- Reader’s Guide to Periodical Literature, 1890-1982 OxLIP+
- Black Journals (microfilm) (early 20th C)
- Making of America (http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/) (19th C)
Official Papers, Government Publications etc.

• General and finding aids
  – US Government Publications guide: libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/us-govpubs
  – North American legal resources guide (Bodleian Law Library) libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/law-usa
  – Monthly Catalog (Print in VHL (1933-) and online at catalog.gpo.gov (1976-)
  – govinfo (www.govinfo.gov) (mainly 1990s- but increasingly also older materials)
  – HeinOnline OxLIP+

• Colonial State Papers/Calendar of State Papers OxLIP+
• Early State Papers eg Virginia, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Pennsylvania (VHL and via Early American Imprints)
Official Papers, Government Publications etc.

- Congressional publications
  - Journals and Papers of the Continental Congress ([www.loc.gov/collections](http://www.loc.gov/collections)  [www.fold3.com/browse](http://www.fold3.com/browse))
  - American State Papers (1789-1838)  
  - US Congressional Serial Set (1817-)
  - House & Senate Journals  
  - Congressional Record & predecessors  
  - Congressional Committee Hearings (and indexes)
  - Roll Call (VHL xJK 1 .C6635) (1969-)
  - Congress.gov ([www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov)) and Govtrack.us ([www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us))
Official Papers, Government Publications etc.

- Presidential Papers
  - Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents
  - Public Papers of the Presidents, 1929-
  - Published papers (search SOLO)
  - Online/microfilm collections (Library of Congress)
  - American Presidency Project (www.presidency.ucsb.edu)
  - Presidential Libraries (www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries)
- American Founding Era Collection
- Departmental publications – search SOLO or online/in Serial Set
- Papers of statesmen – online, microfilm (particularly 19thC), published
Official Papers, Government Publications etc.

- Foreign Relations
  - Foreign Relations of the United States (1861-)
  - Diplomatic Instructions and Despatches (19th C)
  - Treaties: Serial Set, US Treaties & other international agreements
  - Digital National Security Archive (1945-) OXLIP+
  - US Declassified Documents Online/DDRS (1945-) OXLIP+
  - Foreign Broadcast Information Service (1974-1996) OXLIP+
  - Confidential Print North America (1824-1961) OXLIP+
  - Papers of British Ambassadors to the US/British statesmen (Bodleian Special Collections)
Censuses, Statistics, Data

• Decennial census (1790-)
  – Reports: print volumes in VHL (early censuses in Serial Set OxLIP+); online via census.gov/library/publications.html
  – Data: Social Explorer, 1790- www.socialexplorer.com
  – Full census records: partial 1860, 1900-1930 via www.fold3.com/browse/ (under non-military records); 1940 at 1940census.archives.gov

• Other census reports (thematic, non-population) www.census.gov/library/publications.html
Censuses, Statistics, Data

• Historical Statistics of the United States
• Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1878-: Print in VHL, online at
  www.census.gov/library/publications/time-series/statistical_abstracts.html
• Datasets: from ICPSR
  www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/ or data.gov
• Opinion polls:
  – iPoll (1933-)
  – Gallup Analytics (1933-) – ‘Gallup Brain’
• Bodleian Data Library: www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/data
Biographical sources

- American National Biography
- World Biographical Archive
- Who’s Who in America
- Biographical Directory of the United States Congress
  (bioguide.congress.gov)
Papers, Archives, Special Collections

• In Oxford
  – VHL microfilm collections
  – VHL Elections Archive www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/vhl/finding-resources/elections-archive
  – Weston Library www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/weston/finding-resources/catalogues

• Finding aids
  – A guide to manuscripts relating to America in Great Britain and Ireland VHL Ref. E 178 .C74 1979
  – ArchivesHub (UK) http://archiveshub.ac.uk
  – ArchiveGrid http://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/
  – National Archives Catalog (US) www.archives.gov/research/catalog/
  – Guide to visiting US archives libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/us-archives
Archives Online  OxLIP+

- Virginia Company Archives
- Early Encounters in North America
- North American Immigrant Letters, Diaries, and Oral Histories
- North American Women’s Letters and Diaries
- The American West
- African American Studies Center
- Migration to New Worlds, 1800-1924
- Slavery in America and the World: History, Culture and Law [via HeinOnline]
Archives Online

- VHL’s Diigo page (www.diigo.com/user/vhllib)
- Library of Congress (www.loc.gov/collections)
- State digital libraries and Historical Associations (www.digitalstatearchives.com/)
- Hathi Trust (www.hathitrust.org)
- Flickr Commons (www.flickr.com/commons)
- Digital Public Library of America (dp.la)

Tips for finding sources on the web
blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/us-studies/2012/04/27/finding-primary-sources-on-the-web-for-us-history-some-tips/
For more help

• Online guide to US History Sources (libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ushistory)
• US Studies Resources at Oxford blog (blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/us-studies)

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