

Print reference, in print and online Yonkers High School IB program

Types of reference materials.

Reference books are used to find basic facts and general overviews of topics. Print reference books can only be used in the library (and provide information that's not always available online).

Use reference books as a first step in research--to get a better sense of the topic, and to check quick facts (names, dates, locations).

Print references. Most materials can be found in the Reference area on the third floor of the Yonkers Riverfront Library (call numbers and URLs are in brackets). (*Print reference also includes materials found online that originally were published in print. See Google Books, primary source collections, etc.*)

The LibGuide available on the Sarah Lawrence College website contains a **Slavery Bibliography**. This PDF document provides a list of selected materials on slavery available at the Yonkers Riverfront and Will Libraries and can be found (along with this Print Reference Guide) at <https://www.ypl.org/research/#IB>. Please use the library catalog (www.ypl.org) to find other useful materials in the catalog.

Primary sources.

What is a primary source? Primary records are those generated by a particular event, by those who participated in it, or by those who directly witnessed the event. Primary sources might be interviews or typewritten accounts from witnesses, newspaper articles describing the event, or other recorded accounts.

Primary source collections. Subject-based collections of primary source materials on a specific topic; often arranged chronologically or by subject or author. Some collections will contain primary and secondary source material.

- *100 milestone documents of American history.* A cooperative effort among National History Day, The National Archives and Records Administration, and USA Freedom Corps. These documents “reflect our diversity and our unity, our past and our future, and mostly our commitment as a nation to continue to strive to ‘form a more perfect union.’” [<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/>]

- *The 1619 Project*. New York Times Magazine project examining the legacy of slavery. [https://pulitzercenter.org/sites/default/files/full_issue_of_the_1619_project.pdf]¹
- [*African American years*](#) [305.896 S]
- [*African voices of the Atlantic slave trade*](#) [306.36 B]
- [*Annals of America*](#) [973 A]
- [*Black women in American history*](#) [305.348 B]
- [*Documentary history of the Negro people in the United States*](#) [305.896 D]
- *First-person narratives of the American South*. Documenting the American South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. [<http://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/>]
- *Freedmen and Southern Society Project*. Established in 1976 to document emancipation in the words of the participants: liberated slaves and defeated slaveholders, soldiers and civilians, common folk and the elite, Northerners and Southerners. Includes 50,000 documents that explain the journey from slavery to freedom between the beginning of the Civil War in 1861 and the beginning of Radical Reconstruction in 1867. Interpretive essays by the editors provide historical context. [<http://www.freedmen.umd.edu/index.html>]
- *In motion: the African-American migration experience*. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. [<http://www.inmotionaame.org>]
- *Library of Virginia*. [http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/collections_by_topic]
 - [WPA Life Histories collection](#). Fully-searchable index with images to approximately 1,350 life histories, social-ethnic studies, and youth studies plus more than 50 interviews with former slaves which were created by the staff of the Virginia Writers' Project.
 - [Chancery Records index](#). Virginia circuit courts' chancery records contain considerable historical and genealogical information. Because the records rely so heavily on testimony from witnesses, they offer a unique glimpse into the lives of Virginians from the early 18th century through the First World War.
 - [Legislative Petitions](#) digital collection. Petitions to the Virginia General Assembly were the primary catalyst for legislation in the Commonwealth from 1776 until 1865. Topics include public improvements, military claims, divorce, manumission of slaves, division of counties, incorporation of towns, religious freedom, and taxation, among others. Also may include supplementary support documents useful in research, including maps, wills, naturalizations, deeds, resolutions, affidavits, judgments, and other items.

Primary sources provide a window into the past—unfiltered access to the record of artistic, social, scientific and political thought and achievement during the specific period under study, produced by people who lived during that period.--*Library of Congress*

¹ See also “*The fight over the 1619 Project is not about the facts*” (December 23, 2019) in *The Atlantic* for a discussion of the controversy surrounding this project [<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/12/historians-clash-1619-project/604093/>], and “An update to the 1619 Project” in the March 20, 2020 *New York Times* [<https://nyti.ms/2wT7ij5>]

- Unknown No Longer. Unpublished historical records from The Virginia Museum of History & Culture include biographical details of enslaved Virginians from unpublished historical records in its collections.
[<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/aan/search-the-narrative>]
- Virginia Untold, the African American narrative. Virginia Untold provides access points to the individual stories of African Americans who lived in Virginia from the establishment of slavery in the 1600s until its demise in 1865.
[<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/aan/>]
- *Making of America*. Collection of approximately 1,600 full-text books and 50,000 journal articles from the antebellum period through Reconstruction. [For books: <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moa/> and for journal articles: <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moajrnl/>]
- *National Museum of African American History and Culture*. More than 37,000 objects relating to African American history can be found through this digital collection.
[<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/collection>]
- *New York Heritage Digital Collections*. The collections in New York Heritage represent a broad range of historical, scholarly, and cultural materials held in libraries, museums, and archives throughout the state. Includes photographs, letters, diaries, directories, maps, books, etc. covering people, places and institutions of New York State.
[<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/search/searchterm/slavery/field/all/mode/all/conn/and/cosuppress/>]
- *The Missing Chapter: Untold Stories of the African American Presence in the Hudson River Valley*. Documents from a variety of archives, libraries, and private collections around New York State, primarily from Ulster County, New York. Describes the African American presence in the Mid-Hudson Valley, and their role in colonial and antebellum society in this region. Photographs, bills of sale, last will and testaments, inventories, auctions, runaway slave notices, court cases, slave law codes, journals, ledgers, and correspondences. [<https://omeka.hrvh.org/exhibits/show/missing-chapter>]
- *New-York Historical Society*. Digital holdings include 12,000+ pages of text dating from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries. Collection includes important manuscript collections relating to the institution of slavery in the United States and the Atlantic slave trade. Account books and ship manifests documenting the financial aspects of the slave trade, records of educational institutions and anti-slavery organizations, correspondence and other personal papers of abolitionists, legal documents such as birth certificates and deeds of manumission, and political works are included.
[<http://digitalcollections.nyhistory.org/islandora/object/islandora%253A130602>]
- *The New York African Free School Collection*. In 1787 the New York Manumission Society created the African Free School with the primary goal of educating black children. It began as a single-room schoolhouse with about 40 students, the majority of whom were the children of slaves, and taught them a variety of practical subjects. By the time it was absorbed into the New York City public school system in 1835, it had educated thousands of children, including many who went on to become notable leaders. Actual examples of students' work from 1816 through 1826 are included, offering a

glimpse into the little-known history of African-American life in New York City in the late-18th and early-19th centuries.

[<https://www.nyhistory.org/web/africanfreeschool/history/>]

- *North American slave narratives*. Documenting the American South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. [<http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/>]
- *Public papers of the President of the United States* [973.916 U (9 95)]
- *Slavery in America: from colonial times to the Civil War* [326.09 S (11 00)]
- *Slavery in the courtroom: an annotated bibliography of American cases* [342.087 F (9 94)]
- *Transatlantic slave trade database*. Information² on almost 36,000 slaving voyages that forcibly embarked over 10 million Africans for transport to the Americas between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. [<http://www.slavevoyages.org/>]
- *Valley of the shadow: living the Civil War in Pennsylvania and Virginia*. Virginia Center for Digital History, University of Virginia Library project that interweaves the histories of two communities on either side of the Mason-Dixon Line during the era of the American Civil War, incorporating a narrative and electronic archive of sources. [<http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/>]
- Xavier University of Louisiana's Digital Archives.
 - *Charles F. Heartman Manuscripts of Slavery Collection*. Consists of over 6,000 pieces dating from 1724 to 1897, and relate directly to the social, economic, civil, and legal status of enslaved Negroes and Free People of Color in Louisiana an especially in New Orleans. The manuscripts are written in French, Spanish, and English. [<https://cdm16948.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16948coll6>]
 - *The Slavery & Freedom in Louisiana Collection* contains newly discovered hand-written manuscripts pertaining to a variety of slave records in Louisiana, dating from 1784 to 1860. These rare documents, including freedom papers, wedding certificates, affidavits on runaway slaves, slave revolts, police records, and slave sale receipts, expand the historical knowledge of slavery in Louisiana and surrounding states during this time period. Documents are in French, Spanish, and English. [<https://cdm16948.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16948coll7>]

Google Books. Search on Google Books or on Google.com, and when a book with content that contains a match for your search terms is found, Google Books will provide a link to the results (sometimes full-text).



Google Books contains vast amounts of primary and secondary source materials and is particularly useful in searching for print materials that are out of copyright (printed before 1922).

² Database sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Emory and Harvard Universities; University of Hull (UK); Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (Brazil); Victoria University, Wellington (New Zealand).

Each book includes an 'About this book' page with basic bibliographic data like title, author, publication date, length and subject. For some books you may also see additional information like *key terms and phrases*, *references to the book from scholarly publications or other books*, chapter titles and a *list of related books*. For every book, you'll see links directing you to bookstores where you can buy the book and libraries where you can borrow it.

Viewing materials. If the book is out of copyright, or the publisher has given permission, you'll be able to see a preview of the book, and in some cases the entire text. If it's in the public domain, you can download a PDF copy.

- Limited Preview. If the publisher or author has given permission, you can see a limited number of pages from the book as a preview.
- Snippet View. Like a card catalog, the snippet view shows information about the book plus a few snippets – a few sentences to display your search term in context.
- No preview. Google also displays search results for books that have not been digitized. As these books have not been scanned, their text is not searchable and only information such as the title, author, publisher, number of pages, ISBN, subject and copyright information, and in some cases, a table of contents and book summary is available.

Some helpful URLs.

- IB Library guide, Sarah Lawrence College: <http://sarahlawrence.libguides.com/IB>
- Research databases, New York Public Library: <https://www.nypl.org/research>
- Catalog, Yonkers Public Library: <https://catalog.westchesterlibraries.org/eg/opac/home>
- Research databases, Yonkers Public Library. <http://www.ypl.org/research/>
- *To access Academic Onefile, click on Magazines. To access Chronicling America, click on History.*
- This Print Reference guide and the Slavery Bibliography are found here: <https://www.ypl.org/research/#IB>
- WorldCat. <http://www.worldcat.org/> *Online union catalog that searches many libraries at once for an item, and locates it in a library nearby, useful for finding materials to request via interlibrary loan. (Note: not all library materials are listed in WorldCat, and not all libraries allow items to be checked out.)*

Print references available in the Library.

Dictionaries. Brief definitions of words and concepts, either general or within the context of a subject area; arranged alphabetically.

- [*Historical dictionary of the old South*](#) [975.03 R]
- [*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*](#) [423 M 2003]
- [*Oxford American dictionary and language guide*](#) [423 D]

Encyclopedias. Brief discussions of specific topics; generally more detailed than dictionaries. Arranged alphabetically, often with bibliographies at the end of each entry (leading to additional articles/sources).

- [*African American history*](#) [305.896 A]
- [*Africana: the encyclopedia of the African and African American experience*](#) (305.896 A 2005) (vv. 1-5)
- [*Black saga*](#) (305.896 C)
- [*Encyclopedia Americana*](#); [*Encyclopedia.com*](#) (online resources available with library card through the Yonkers Public Library)
- [*Encyclopedia of African American history*](#) [R 305.896 E]
- [*Encyclopedia of American History*](#), vols. 1-6 [973.03 E 2010]
- [*Encyclopedia of antislavery and abolition*](#) [326.8 E]
- [*Encyclopedia of slave resistance and rebellion*](#) [306.36 E]
- [*Enslaved women in America*](#) [306.362 E]
- [*Latin America, history and culture: an encyclopedia for students*](#) [980 L]
- [*MacMillan encyclopedia of world slavery*](#) [306.36 M]
- [*Slavery in the United States: a social, political, and historical encyclopedia*](#) [306.36 S 2007]
- [*World of a slave: encyclopedia of the material life of slaves in the United States*](#) [306.36 W 2011]

Atlases. Collections of maps that organize all kinds of information (not just directions) geographically; organized by the principle of the atlas: geographically, chronologically, alphabetically.

- [*Atlas of African American history*](#) [305.896 C 2007]
- [*Atlas of American history*](#) [911.73 N]
- [*Atlas of Slavery*](#) [306.36 W]
- [*Atlas of the transatlantic slave trade*](#) [306 E]
- [*Chronology of world slavery*](#) [306.36 R]
- [*Historical and cultural atlas of African Americans*](#) [305.896 A]
- [*Rand-McNally Road Atlas*](#) [912.7 R 2019]

Directories. Organized lists of people, businesses, organizations or associations, including addresses, telephone numbers, and other contact information. Arranged alphabetically, geographically, or by subject.

- [*Europa world year book*](#) [REF 909.82 E 2014] (shelved at reference desk, [available through New York Public Library](#) with library card)
- *Yellow Pages, White Pages*

Almanacs. Often published annually, almanacs contain calendars, facts, statistics, and other miscellaneous information; organized by subject, usually with an extensive index.

- [African-American almanac](#) [305.896 R 12 97]
- [Statistical record of black America](#) [305.896 S]
- [Student almanac of African American history](#) [305.896 S] (vv 1-2)
- [World Almanac and Book of Facts](#) [317 W]

Biographical resources. Written accounts of people's lives, often collected by subject area; usually arranged alphabetically by last name.

- [African American century](#) [920 G]
- [African American lives](#) [920 A]
- [African American national biography](#) [920 A]
- [African biographical dictionary](#) [920 B]
- [Dictionary of American biography](#) [920 D]

Handbooks. Concise guides to specific topics; arranged variously, usually with extensive indexes.

- [A history of Negro slavery in New York](#) [326 M]
- [Brazil: a country study](#) [981 B 1997 (10 98)]
- [Cotton and race in the making of America: the human costs of economic power](#) [306.362 D]
- [From slavery to freedom: a history of African Americans](#) [306.36 F 2000]
- [Guide to New York City landmarks](#) [917.471 G]
- [Historical guide to world slavery](#) [306.36 H]
- [MLA handbook for writers of research papers](#) [808.02 M 2009]
- [Slavery and the making of America](#) [305.896 H]
- [Slavery in America from colonial times to the Civil War](#) [326.09 S]
- [Slavery in the United States](#) [306.36 S 2007]
- [The Black New Yorkers: the Schomburg illustrated chronology](#) [305.896 D]
- [Timetables of African American history](#) [305.896 H]

Indexes. Guides to periodical literature like magazines and newspapers; published periodically and arranged alphabetically by subject.

- [New York Times Index](#) [070 N, also online through YPL]

The following indexes are available online via New York Public Library with NYPL card:

- [Periodicals Index online.](#) A database of millions of citations for articles in the arts, humanities, and social sciences, across more than 300 years. Over 6,000 journals are included. Journals indexed span 37 key subject subject areas and multiple languages.

- [Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers](#). Over 500 titles covering the entire nineteenth century, with a special emphasis on westward expansion, the American Civil War, and the African American experience. All states and territories, except Washington and Nevada, are represented, but please note that some publications have a small number of issues, rather than their complete run, included.
- [U.S. History in Context](#). Coverage of the most-studied U.S. history topics including from the arrival of Vikings in North America, American Revolution, Civil Rights movement, 9/11, and the War on Terror through a web-like experience that supports the development of critical thinking and information literacy skills. Noted for access to primary source documents.
- [Slavery in America and the World](#). Brings together all known legal materials on slavery in the United States and the English-speaking world, as well as materials on free African-Americans in the colonies and the U.S. before 1870. Included are every statute passed by every state and colony, all federal statutes, all reported state and federal cases on slavery, and hundreds of books and pamphlets on the subject.
- [Slavery and Anti-Slavery: A Transnational Archive](#). A historical archive of several million cross-searchable pages of books, serials, supreme court records and briefs, and key manuscript collections from the United States, Great Britain, and France concerning debates of slavery and abolition, the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the Institution of Slavery, and the Age of Emancipation. Provides a context for further research through links to chronology, biographies, bibliographies, and websites.

Reference Sources.

For information about...

Choose...

Words	Dictionaries
General information, overview of topic	Encyclopedias
Names, addresses of people, organizations, institutions, companies	Directories
Profiles of people	Biographical dictionaries
Places, maps	Atlases or gazetteers
Facts, statistics	Almanacs
Formulas, tables, how-to instructions	Handbooks and manuals
A person's work	Reviews, criticisms
Dates, outlines, historical timelines	Historical tables, chronologies, historical yearbooks
Periodical articles	Indexes or abstracts
Books and other sources	Bibliographies, guides to literature

Sample searches. *These are general topics and far too vague for a historical investigation/research paper. Here's how to narrow that topic down.*

Finding a research topic related to **Harriet Tubman**.

1. Start by reviewing some entries in an encyclopedia, such as the *Encyclopedia of Slave Resistance and Rebellion*, or an index such as *African American History*. Take notes on the bibliographies in the entries; these articles might be useful to explore as you narrow your topic.
2. Take a look at other resources, such as *From slavery to freedom*, *Atlas of Slavery*, and *Enslaved Women in America* to see what else you can find.
3. From there, you can use the themes you find in these materials to find out information that leads you to determine a topic to investigate. What made Harriet Tubman decide to risk her life to help others make their way to freedom? What did her contemporaries in the abolitionist movement think of her mission? What might be the women's history viewpoint on this topic?
4. You might do some searching in biographies of Tubman, in primary source materials such as *Black Abolitionist Papers*, *Black Women in American History* and the like to find information and other ideas for your paper.

Finding a research topic relating to **slavery in Cuba**.

1. Start by looking at an encyclopedia that contains information about Cuba, perhaps *Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History* for general information on Puerto Rico, or *Chronology of World Slavery* and to find out more about slavery in that country.
2. Review some other resources, such as *Atlas of Slavery* and the *Atlas of the TransAtlantic Slave Trade* for additional information.
3. Then turn to a handbook: *A historical guide to world slavery* to get ideas on narrowing your topic. Perhaps you want to consider the economic impact of slavery in Cuba. These resources each have bibliographies that provide additional sources for you to check. For example, the *MacMillan encyclopedia* entry on plantations in Cuba offers several articles on slavery and how it affected the Cuban economy in its bibliography.
4. From here, you can research the economic history of Cuba and narrow down your topic. Some resources that could be helpful are *Slavery in the Americas: a comparative study of Virginia and Cuba* or *Sugar is made with blood: the conspiracy of La Escalera and the conflict between empires over slavery in Cuba*.