Sources for Research Projects

Types of Published Sources

Many primary sources are available in published forms to help you with your research. These published primary sources can come in many different forms, and it is helpful to understand exactly what you’re dealing with:

- **Editions** – scholarly editions are usually a full transcription of a source, which will usually also have an introduction and/or footnotes that will help you to understand the context of a source
- **Selections** – where a transcription is not complete, they will usually be called ‘Selections from’ or similar. This is most common with diaries, where only the most interesting entries are included – but remember what the editor thought was interesting enough to include might not match what you’re looking for
- **Calendars** – many really important primary sources are available as ‘calendars’. These contain summaries or abstracts of each entry in the original source, but leave out a lot of detail. The wording and phrases in the calendar might not be the same as the original. The most important are the *Calendars of State Papers*
- **Online Collections** – many primary sources are now made available online in ways that preserve the layout and detail of the original sources. These are usually indexed, but let you see images of the original. The most important examples are EEBO and newspaper collections
- **Databases** – other primary sources have been produced online as databases have been interpreted and translated into a fixed format to allow easy searching and comparison. Wording and details might be lost compared to the original.
- **Readers’ or ‘Sourcebooks’** – are more like textbooks and contain highly edited selections of examples of different types of primary sources

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The following is a guide to sources for some of the topics taught by members of staff. The bibliographical references, source collections and web-sites should give you some idea of the range of sources that are available at the University of Essex and elsewhere. You should also consult the library’s Periodicals Catalogue for information on the collections of newspapers and magazines.

Sources on specific periods and areas

1. Early Modern Britain

*Early English Books Online [EEBO] and Eighteenth-Century Collections Online [ECCO]* provide online access to virtually all books and pamphlets printed (in any language) in Britain and Ireland and British colonies overseas and works printed in English elsewhere in the world before 1801. This offers tremendous possibilities for projects, with books and pamphlets covering a very wide range of topics: witchcraft, rebellion, gender roles, war, religion and religious conflict, the family, youth, popular culture, royalty, etiquette, politeness, luxury, and personal behaviour are only some of the many subjects to be found here. Sermons, petitions, royal proclamations, ballads, cheap pamphlets, conduct books, books of travel and political propaganda are only some of the genres available. The collections offer the chance to look at the history of major events from the Reformation to the American Revolution, as well as social histories of topics as diverse as the history of food or gender stereotyping. EEBO and ECCO can be accessed via the University Library Homepage.

Searching EEBO can be tricky because of differences in spelling of names and words in the early modern period. Be creative – try typing in variations of the word (honor for honour, kinge for king, etc), and remember that j was sometimes rendered as i, u as v, and w as vv.

*Calendars of State Papers.* These are summaries (with some transcriptions) of documents, mostly relating to political matters, but also with plenty of relevance to social and religious history. There are several sets: Calendars of State Papers Domestic, Colonial, Ireland, Scotland, available in the Albert Sloman Library. The full versions of the State Papers are available in some archives on microfilm.

The first part of the British State Papers Domestic, covering the reign of the Tudors, is now available (and searchable) via *State Papers Online*, which can be accessed through the Albert Sloman library catalogue.

*British History Online.* A massive selection of primary sources for all periods of British history (editions, selections, calendars and databases) have been digitised and made available at British History Online: [http://www.british-history.ac.uk/](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/)

Amongst the most important resources available there are many editions of early modern Journals of the House of Commons and Lords, Privy Council, and Calendars of State Papers (i.e. most of the key records of government). The complete publications of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments and Commission on Historical Manuscripts are included. There are also very useful collections of local records for various areas including the London Record Society’s publications – these can be very useful for all kinds of questions, not just ‘local’ ones. The Victoria County History (VCH) which is a definitive secondary source for many local areas in England is included on this website.
Printed collections of primary documents. Several local and national history societies have been active since the nineteenth century in publishing collections of the personal papers of important individuals, and material like diaries, wills, assize records, and parish registers that can provide a considerable amount of information on political, social and religious history. Even if you are not doing a strictly local history topic, it is worth browsing the local history section of the library for such collections published by county history societies, and looking at the publications of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, The Early English Text Society (late medieval and early modern documents), Selden Society (history of crime), and others. Try setting aside an afternoon just to browse! Many older collections of documents (19th century and previous) are now available online, via websites such as Google Books and Internet Archive (www.archive.org).

Collections of Documents. See section on archives above.

Other Pamphlet and Early printed Book Collections. Including those in the Albert Sloman Library.

Historical Maps. Historical maps of pretty much every period and area of the world can be located using the search site at http://www.oldmapsonline.org/ - this includes the map collections of the British Library, New York Public Library, and the David Rumsey Collection (the world’s largest private map collection). The university now subscribes to the service Historic Digimap from EDINA, which provides access to Ordnance Survey maps of Great Britain in every decade from the 1850s to the present. Search for ‘Historic digimap’ on the library catalogue.

www.earlymodernweb.org.uk provides links to a variety of primary sources as well as bibliographies on gender, religion, crime, etc.

www.ucc.ie/celt publishes early modern and medieval texts relating to Ireland and again has links to other resources.

2. Nineteenth- and twentieth-century Britain

The range of sources available for research on projects in modern British history is as wide as the range of topics. Anyone doing a project on British history will have the advantage of working in the country itself, where you will have access to the fullest range of primary material, not only printed but also archival. Although the modern British historians in the Department all have their own research specialisms, they happily supervise projects across the full range of modern British history, and it is from them that you will obtain detailed advice on how to start finding the relevant sources for the topic that interests you.

Bibliographies There are many good bibliographies of books and articles on modern British history. The following are very valuable, though no longer fully up-to-date. They are available in the History Department Library as well as the Albert Sloman Library:


The Albert Sloman Library has access to the Bibliography of British and Irish History (available via the Library’s e-resources page).
The most commonly used sources or archives include:

**National and local newspapers.**

The library subscribes to *Nineteenth-Century Newspapers Online*, an online archive of some of the most important newspaper titles of the 1800s which is easily searchable: look under ‘e-resources’ on the library website. Other collections available from the library e-resources page include the *British Newspapers Archives* (mainly containing local newspapers published before 1950), the *Daily Mail Historical Archive*, the *Times Digital Archive*, the *Sunday Times Digital Archive*, the *UK Press Online* (which includes the *Daily Mirror*, and the *Daily and Sunday Express*), and *Proquest Historical Newspapers* (which includes the *Observer* and *Guardian*). Other national newspapers and all local newspapers are to be found in the British Library London. Local newspapers can also be easily found in the appropriate local libraries. *The Warwick Guide to British Labour Periodicals, 1790-1970: A Check List*, arranged and compiled by R. Harrison, G. B. Woolven and R. Duncan (1977) provides an exhaustive listing of newspapers and journals on working-class history and their location.

The Albert Sloman Library now has the most important radical British newspaper of the nineteenth century – the *Northern Star* (1838-52).

The Library also holds the monthly *Gentleman’s Magazine* from 1732 to 1871, locked up in 'Store C'. Have a look through the indexes at the end of each volume (and the amalgamated indexes published from time to time) in order to see the wide range of subjects reported and discussed in this journal. This is useful source on many topics (e.g., medicine, food, music, political culture, ‘current events’, middle class culture): part is also available online through the library website, as is the equally important publication *Notes and Queries*.

**Parliamentary Papers** contain a vast amount of very rich material, and are available from 1801 on microfiche in the Albert Sloman Library. They contain up to one hundred or more big volumes a year, and include the full proceedings of Royal Commissions and Select Committees which inquired into a great variety of social, economic and political issues, as well as a large range of other papers presented to Parliament. Parliamentary Papers can also be found on line at the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers Website via the Albert Sloman Library at: http://0-parlipapers.chadwyck.co.uk.serlib0.essex.ac.uk/home.do

**Parliamentary debates can be found online at:** [http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/](http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/)

**Autobiographies and diaries.** Printed autobiographies can be accessed through a variety of bibliographies (for example *The Autobiography of the Working Class: An Annotated Critical Bibliography*, edited by John Burnett, David Vincent and David Mayall in 3 vols, 1984 onwards, and B. Kanner, *Women in Context: Two Hundred Years of British Women’s Autobiographies - A Reference Guide and Reader* (New York, 1997)). There are a variety of guides to unpublished autobiographies and diaries, and the manuscripts are often found in local record offices.

**Oral history collections.** There is now a very wide collection of interviews of an historical nature in various depots. The Essex County Record Office in Chelmsford, for example, has a Sound Archive. The Albert Sloman Library houses the 1500 taped interviews of the Colchester Recalled project in oral history. They deal with the history of the town – in its factories and hospitals, for example – and contain valuable material on Colchester during the War.
County Record Offices. See above

The National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office). See above

Census. The population census is a very rich source for social and demographic history, and the manuscript census (available for every census, carried out every ten years, from 1841 to 1901) gives details of every household, with detailed information (such as name, sex, age, occupation, birthplace) for each person living at that address. The potential of this source is enormous. Although all manuscript census books are available on microfilm in London, local libraries and record offices generally have the microfilm for their area. The 1881 census is also available in electronic form from the History Data Service, part of the UK Data Archive based at the University of Essex. On the census see the introduction by Eddy Higgs, one of the British history lecturers in the Department, *Making Sense of the Census: The Manuscript Returns for England and Wales, 1801-1901* (1989). The reports compiled from the census returns and background to census-taking can be found on the HistPop website at http://www.histpop.org/.

Political records. The newspaper press is obviously essential for projects on political history. However, there are of course many other archives, such as autobiographies and diaries of politicians. The Albert Sloman Library has on microfilm the archives of the Conservative Party (1909-64), the Labour Party (1900-67) and the Independent Labour Party (1900-67).

Web sites. There are many web sites which can stimulate ideas but also give detailed guides to bibliography and sources. Examples are:

- www.fordham.edu/halsall/women/womensbook.html (women’s history sourcebook);
- http://www.massobs.org.uk/accessing_material_online.htm (Mass-Observation web site – good for the social history of the 1930s);
- http://www.history.ac.uk/history-online/ (Institute of Historical Research’s history on-line).

Historical Maps. The university now subscribes to the service *Historic Digimap* from EDINA, which provides access to Ordnance Survey maps of Great Britain in every decade from the 1850s to the present. Search for ‘Historic digimap’ on the library catalogue.

3. Early Modern France


*Calendars of State Papers, Foreign* include reports from English agents and ambassadors on France and other European states.

If you read French, then there are major collections of printed primary sources, some of which are in the Albert Sloman library: C.B. Petitot, *Collection des mémoires relatifs à l’histoire de France*; P. Grillon (ed.), *Les papiers de Richelieu*; R. Mousnier (ed.) *Lettres et mémoires adressés au chancelier Séguier 1633-49*; A. D. Liublinskaia, *Documents pour servir à l’histoire de France. Lettres et mémoires adressés au chancelier P. Séguier.*

A useful website is: http://www.georgetown.edu/faculty/schneidz
4. German History

A good starting point for any topic on German history is the online source collection (documents and images) of the German Historical Institute in Washington covering a time period from 1500 to 2009: http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/home.cfm


Furthermore, a collection of 150 filmed interviews (more than 450 hours of film) with former refugees from Nazism now living in Britain (‘Refugee Voices’) is available in the Albert Sloman Library.

One of the best places to look for source collections, periodicals, photos, press clippings and books on the Holocaust is the Wiener Library in London (pay attention to the current relocation notice on the website). Despite its name, the Wiener Library is less like a library but one of the most extensive archives on the Holocaust and the Nazi period: http://www.wienerlibrary.co.uk/default.aspx

Websites that offer a wealth of material online relate largely to the Third Reich, the Second World War and the Holocaust. The website of Yad Vashem provides links to its photo archive available online as well as to many other useful resources for examining themes on the Holocaust: http://www1.yadvashem.org/yv/en/about/index.asp.

The website of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also allows to access collections of photographs as well as short interviews with Holocaust survivors: http://www.ushmm.org/research/collections/.

For photographs and written sources on concentration camps within Nazi Germany: www.camps.bbk.ac.uk/

The AJR (Association of Jewish Refugees) allows online access to its journal dating back to 1946. This is an extraordinary source body giving insight into efforts to re-build identities: www.ajr.org.uk/pdfjournals.

The collections of the Imperial War Museum, partly accessible online, offer written and visual material on war-related issues but also include material of a much broader nature than the museum’s name would suggest: http://collections.iwm.org.uk/server/show/nav.157.
5. Russian History

Since most students do not read Russian and there are relatively few English-language primary sources on Russian topics, projects on Russian history usually focus on the English-language historiography of some historical issue (the October Revolution, the rise of Stalin, popular attitudes to the terror, the origins of the Cold War, etc.). There are, however, a few primary sources which can be used as the basis of very interesting work:

*British Documents on Foreign Affairs* -- these are consular and intelligence reports on the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, from 1859-1950.

*U.S. Military Intelligence Reports: The Soviet Union.* US assessments of events in the Soviet Union from 1917 to 1944.

*Cold War International History Project.* This is a Russian-American project to write the history of the Cold War on the basis on newly available documents. This is a window into history-in-the-making, and contains rich materials, all of which are in English translation. The address of the website is <www.cwihp.si.edu>.


Suny, R G *The Structure of Soviet History. Essays and Documents* This source contains documents and essays on Russia, the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation from the Russian Revolution to the resignation of Boris Yeltsin on 31 December 1999.

In addition, there are many memoirs translated into English, mostly dealing with the revolution, the civil war, and Stalin's rule.

6. International History

**Reference sources.** Because international history covers so many different topics, it is difficult to identify a few key bibliographic guides. The keywords or subject headings facilities in the Albert Sloman library catalogue will identify any relevant library holdings.

**Microfilms.** The microfilm collection in the Albert Sloman Library contains a number of document collections of use to the historian of international history, including documents from the British Foreign Office, and the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States.

The University Library subscribes to some electronic resources, such as one which provides access to transcripts of telephone conversations held by Henry Kissinger when he was Secretary of State: Title Digital National Security Archive (electronic resource): the Kissinger transcripts. Classmark, Database.

**Web sites.** Many of the web sites listed under United States history are also of use for international history. For anyone interested in the Cold War, the Cold War International History Project, managed by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for scholars, is a very valuable
The United Nations has an official web site, including some key documents, on [http://www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

The National Security Archive of George Washington University has made available a number of documents on particular themes, declassified through the Freedom of Information Act: [http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/nsa/the_archive.html](http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/nsa/the_archive.html).

The US Department of State also produces major collections of historical documents from different government agencies, called Foreign Relations of the United States. These volumes relate to US global interests and so are also important historical sources about other nations as well (especially for the period after 1945). The volumes currently go up to about 1980. All of these are now available online. The volumes for years from 1860-1960 can be found here: [http://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/FRUS](http://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/FRUS). Post-1960 volumes are here: [https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments](https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments). These collections are published chronologically but organised within the volumes by country, region and theme.

### 7. African/Asian (Imperial/Colonial) History

A wonderful source for exploring very many aspects of the history of peoples and movements in Africa and Asia resides in the extremely extensive holdings of newspapers from these continents held in the newspaper archives of the British Library in London. It is just opposite the tube station at Colindale on the Northern Line and is the world’s largest single archive of newspapers, with runs (often) of scores of different newspapers from single countries, for example South Africa or India.

Please bear in mind that, if you are following particular moments in imperial/colonial history, there can be extensive reporting on these in Britain’s major national newspapers. Through our library, you can get access to a few of these (e.g. The Times; The Guardian) on microfilm or on-line. In addition, though less extensive in terms of the years covered, the University library does contain some microfilm runs of newspapers from places like South Africa (The Rand Daily Mail) and India (The Times of India). In addition, there is now a vast collection of parliamentary papers (commissions and so forth) relating to the empire: again, these can be consulted here at the University on micro-fiche or through electronic data bases that are part of our library’s holdings.

The National Archives also contain a massive collection of reports submitted to the Foreign Office or the Colonial Office by governor-generals, consuls and the like in African and Asian countries. For those of you interested in Indian history, the archives of the India Office in London will be vital.

You should be aware that the administrators of the empire were forever writing ‘home’ to tell their relatives, friends and colleagues of their new lives and professions. Such correspondence is a valuable source for historians seeking to uncover colonial attitudes, policies and developments. Some of this can be found in archives; but some has been published. To give an example from India: the correspondence of Thomas Babington Macauley, a most important contributor to the development of the legal regime constructed by the British in India, is available (right here in our library!) in the six volumes of the *Letters of Thomas Babington Macauley* edited by Thomas Pinney. Administrators at both high and lower levels left diaries and memoirs that were often published, and they are often very revealing: an example would be Lt-Col. R. Godley’s *In Khaki and Blue*, which recalls his career in South Africa and Rhodesia between the late-nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries. It provides important information on how a settler tried to transplant
his metropolitan culture (polo, hunting and the like), but also on how he helped to monitor and crush strikes.

The intellectuals and politicians who led or inspired protest and nationalist movements often wrote autobiographies (Mandela’s *Long Walk To Freedom*, and J. Nehru *An Autobiography* are good examples). Moreover, there are now published collections of documents relating to the great protests and upheavals of the twentieth century. Examples would be: T. Karis and G. Carter *From Protest to Challenge* (several volumes relating to South Africa) or B. N. Pandey (ed.), *The Indian Nationalist Movement, 1885-1947: Select Documents*

8. Latin American History

A wide range of primary sources in English relate to the History of Latin America. Since the colonial period travel accounts have been written and published in English (see for instance Welch, Thomas L. & Figueras, Myriam (orgs.), *Travel Accounts and Descriptions of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1800-1920: A Selected Bibliography* (Washington, D.C., 1982, Z 1609.T72). Furthermore important texts such as the most important colonial chronicles have been translated into English and might also constitute the base of a project.

During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries British diplomats have sent reports to the Foreign Office which can be consulted at the Public Record Office. They provide valuable first-hand accounts of the situation in cities all over Latin America.

Contemporary English newspapers and journals can also be a valuable source for studying a particular topic or country (See for example Graham, Richard (ed.): *Brazil in the London Times, 1850-1905: A Guide*. Carbondale, 1969, Z 1675). Browsing through newspapers has become easier with electronic databases. Palmer’s full text online (see the Library homepage under databases) allows you to access and download the full text of hundreds of articles from *The Times* relating to Latin America, 1785-1870.

The Web provides an increasing number of sources of different kinds. For information on Latin American topics consult the special website of our Library, which provides links to other databases: [http://libwww.essex.ac.uk/Subject_Guides/la.htm](http://libwww.essex.ac.uk/Subject_Guides/las.htm)

If you do read some basic Spanish or Portuguese, the Web offers excellent resources on Latin America. For example, The Hartness Guide to Statistical Information allows you to download the statistics and complete texts of the *Presidential Reports* of all the Brazilian Provinces, 1830-1889 ([http://brazil.crl.edu/bsd/bsd/hartness/brazppr.htm](http://brazil.crl.edu/bsd/bsd/hartness/brazppr.htm); [http://www-apps.crl.edu/brazil/provincial](http://www-apps.crl.edu/brazil/provincial)).

9. United States History

**Reference Sources.** The following books may be useful for a student wishing to identify sources for a project: Ron Blazek and Anna H Perrault, *United States History: A Selective Guide to Information Sources* (1994); P Parrish (ed.), *A Reader’s Guide to American History.* (1997) This is not a basic textbook, as the name might imply, but a series of short essays on major themes in US history, suggesting the main historical debates and indicating important works.
**Printed Primary Sources.** The University Library contains a range of printed primary sources, which may be used by students working on research projects, including selected Congressional hearings, the public papers and addresses of several presidents, collections of documents relating to the foreign policy of the United States, to name but a few. For the nineteenth and twentieth century, some of these printed sources in the Sloman Library, include: multi-volume collections of slave narratives and interviews with former slaves; Papers from the Freedman's Bureau (which contain valuable information about the U.S. South after emancipation); Congressional hearings on the Ku Klux Klan; and Congressional hearings on the Equal Rights Amendment. There are also numerous document collections, printed papers of important figures (such as Booker T. Washington) and autobiographies.

**Microfilms.** The University holds a number of microfilms, many of which are on US topics. It is well worth searching the catalogue. Collections include documents on New Deal Economic Policy, oral history collections from the Kennedy and Johnson presidential libraries, documents on the Cuban Missile Crisis, and US Government documents on Latin America, the Soviet Union and Japan, as well as British Foreign Office documents on the United States.

**Web sites.** For anyone thinking of doing a project on a topic in United States history, there is a tremendous volume of material available on-line; moreover, many of the sites are very reliable, run by the Library of Congress, the National Archives Administration, or universities. BE WARNED however, that there are also a great many unreliable websites, so do check the author and aims of the site very carefully.

The following sites are all recommended: The Library of Congress American Memory Site may be found at [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amhome.html). It contains (amongst others) on-line collections including substantial parts of the papers of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln; written material on African-Americans, women’s suffrage and first person narratives of the American South, 1860–1920; many collections on folk music; and several collections of photographs, including over 100,000 photographs taken by government photographers in the 1930s, showing conditions across the rural United States.

The National Archives and Records Administration includes a list of the Presidential Libraries, which may be accessed at [http://www.nara.gov/nara/president/address.html](http://www.nara.gov/nara/president/address.html); many of these libraries include on-line document collections.

For anyone interested in the United States during the 1930s, the New Deal Network, at [http://newdeal.feri.org](http://newdeal.feri.org), is invaluable. This also includes links to other useful websites.

The Office of the Historian, State Department, publishes regular volumes of key documents in foreign policy. The website at [http://www.state.gov/www/about_state/history/frus.html](http://www.state.gov/www/about_state/history/frus.html) provides online versions of more recent volumes, particularly for the Kennedy and Johnson years. Earlier volumes may be accessed at [http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/FRUS/](http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/FRUS/)

Documents pertaining to "Women and Social Movements in the US, 1830–1930."
[http://womhist.binghamton.edu/index.html](http://womhist.binghamton.edu/index.html)

"Documents From the Women’s Liberation Movement": [http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/wlm/](http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/wlm/)


"Civil War Women": [http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/collections/civil-war-women.html](http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/collections/civil-war-women.html)
Sallie Bingham Center for Women’s History and Culture:
http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/women/index.html
Race in 1930s U.S.: The Scottsboro Trial:
http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/scottsboro/scottsb.htm
Marcus Garvey: http://www.isop.ucla.edu/mgpp/
General topics in Black History during the Age of Segregation:
http://rs6.loc.gov/ammem/aap/aapcoll.html

**Newspapers.** The British Library Newspaper Archive has a vast quantity of newspapers from various American cities over a long period. In addition, the Essex Library has a complete run of *The New York Times* on microfilm, as well as substantial microfilm coverage of the main newspaper from East St Louis in the early-twentieth century.

**Sources on specific topics**

1. **History of Crime/ History of Policing**


   A great source body for a number of topics related to crime, policing and criminal justice are the proceedings of the Old Bailey (London’s Central Criminal Court) from 1674 to 1913.
   http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/Policing.jsp

   Essex Police Museum in Chelmsford: 02145 457 150. The curator Becky Wash can be contacted via her email address: museum@essex.pnn.police.uk
   The museum has sources on the police but not on crime.

2. **History and Film**

   The university library has a number of resources on film in general, including encyclopaedias, journals and web databases, which may be accessed through:
   http://libwww.essex.ac.uk/Subject_Guides/film.htm

   There are also a number of videos available to watch in the library: key in your search request in the ‘Title’ option of the main library catalogue.

   **On the specific relationship between history and the movies, see in particular**

More general introductions to approaches to the study of film include

This last book includes useful pointers to other resources in specific fields.

Journals in the Albert Sloman University Library

*Film History* [PN1.F33: the library holds vols 10 (1998) onwards, and you can connect to vols 1-4 (1987-90) online via library catalogue]


Web resources

The Internet Movie Database is a very comprehensive encyclopaedia of most films ever made, including full credits, internal and external reviews, clips, trailers and production details; it also allows you to build up your own database, should you wish to do so: [http://www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

Home page of the British Film Institute: [http://www.bfi.org.uk/](http://www.bfi.org.uk/)

Home page of the British Universities Film and Video Council: [http://www.bufvc.ac.uk/](http://www.bufvc.ac.uk/) (includes guidance for researchers)

And finally, of great potential interest for the historical study of the moving image, the British Pathé Film Archive is now online at: [http://www.britishpathe.com](http://www.britishpathe.com)

3. Literature and History

Those of you who have an interest in fiction, poetry and drama have wonderful opportunities for writing projects. Investigating novels, drama or poems (which are primary sources) in terms of the lives and times of their writers can make for excellent and creative projects. You are also helped by the fact that very many major (deceased) writers will have their correspondence collected and edited. To take but three writers whose correspondence is readily available right here at Essex,
consider Dickens (The Letters of Charles Dickens edited by M. House in 10 volumes), Rudyard Kipling (The Letters of Rudyard Kipling edited by T. Pinney in 4 volumes), and Jane Austen (Jane Austen’s Letters to her Sister Cassandra and Others, edited by R. Chapman, and Letters of Jane Austen, edited by Lord Brabourne in 2 volumes). An endless number of other examples could be provided. In addition, the Sloman Library has acquired many volumes of book history from the Library of Peter Isaac, notably the series edited by Robin Myers and Michael Harris. In the past, we have had students who have written projects on Harriet Beecher Stowe, Chinua Achebe and Ngugui wa Th’iongo, Charles Dickens, Jack Kerouac, Kipling, Brian Friel, Nadine Gordimer. Lovers of literature, seize this opportunity!

4. History of Medicine

www.wellcome.ac.uk/library. On-line subject catalogue to the biggest history of medicine library in Europe, which is in central London. Includes books, journals and archive collections from the 16th to 20th centuries, and a vast collection of pictures relating to medicine and healing. Also particularly strong on US and Latin American history of medicine.

The University Library now has a complete set of the Essex Health Committee Minutes for 1913-1971. They will be an invaluable source for a student investigating local health policy.

5. History of Science

The Virtual Laboratory at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science contains texts and images relating to the period 1830-1930. See http://vlp.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de.

6. History of Witchcraft Beliefs and Witch-Trials

The Albert Sloman Library
The Library has many edited collections of witch-trial transcripts and facsimile editions of early modern demonologies (listed below). Early English Books Online also has many pamphlets, demonologies and publications relating to the history of witchcraft and magic in England. The Library also has an excellent microfilm collection (Mic 913: Witchcraft in Europe and America) which has 1045 texts dealing with witchcraft beliefs and witch-trials from the 15th to the 20th century.

Edited Collections of Primary Sources:

Peter A. Morton (ed.), Barbara Dähms (translator), The Trial of Tempel Anneke. Records of a Witchcraft Trial in Brunswick, Germany, 1663 (Broadview Press, 2006)

Gustav Henningsen (ed.), The Salazar Documents: Inquisitor Alonso de Salazar Frias and Others on the Basque Witch Persecution (Brill, 2004)

Lawrence Normand & Gareth Roberts (ed), Witchcraft in Early Modern Scotland. James VI’s Demonology and the North Berwick Witches (University of Exeter Press, 2000)


G L Burr (ed), *Narratives of Witchcraft Cases 1648-1706* (New England)

The following books have primary source sections:


G Gleis and I Bunn, *A Trial of Witches* (1997) see Appendix for pamphlet of 1662 Lowestoft witchcraft case


Facsimile copies/scholarly editions of demonologies:


George Gifford, *A Dialogue Concerning Witches and Withcraftes* (1593)

John Cotta, *The triall of witchcraft, shewing the trve and right methode of the discovery: with a confusion of erroneous ways* (London, 1616)

W W, *A True and just recorde of the informations, examinations and confessions of al the witches taken at S. Oses in the countie of Essex* (originally published 1582; reprinted Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1992)

James I, *Daemonologie* (Edinburgh, 1597; reprinted 1966), includes the *Newes from Scotland*....

George Gifford, *A discourse of the Subtill practises of devilles by witches and sorcerers...London...1587* (facsimile, The English Experience, no 871, Amstersdam, 1977)

Cotton Mather on Witchcraft Being *The Wonders of the Invisible World* (1692; reprinted 1974)

H Kramer & J Sprenger, *Malleus Maleficarum*

Reginald Scot, *The Discoverie of Witchcraft* (London, 1584)

Matthew Hopkins, *The Discovery of Witches* (London, 1645)

Wonderful Discoverie of the Witchcrafts of Margaret and Phillip Flower, daughters of Ioan Flower neere Beuer Castle: executed at Lincoln ...1618....Together with the severall examinations...of Anne Baker, Ioan Willimot, and Ellen Greene, witches in Leicestershire....London....1619 (facsimile, The English Experience, no 517, Amsterdam, 1973)

Nicolas Remy, *Demonolatry* (ed. M. Summers, trans, E A Ashwin; Drawn from the capital trials of 900 persons...who ...have in Lorraine paid the penalty of death for the crime of witchcraft [1595]; London 1930)

Sir Robert Filmer, *An Advertisement to the Jury-Men of England Touching Witches*

John Stearne, *A Confirmation and Discovery of Witchcraft*

G Mora (ed), *Witches, Devils and Doctors in the Renaissance*, (A translation of Weyer’s 1563 *De Praestigiis Daemonum*)

**Websites:**

http://www.shc.ed.ac.uk/Research/witches/

Called *The Survey of Scottish Witchcraft*, this is a huge database on Scottish witch-trials and witchcraft beliefs from 1563-1736 which enables users to search and manipulate data.

http://etext.virginia.edu/salem/witchcraft/

This is the best site dedicated to the Salem witch-trials.
Cornell University in the USA gathered a big collection of primary sources relating to witchcraft and witch-trials in the late-19th/early-20th century. This website enables you to browse or search the collection and also to download texts.

For local sources, in the first instance consult your County Record Office. Please also consult Prof. Alison Rowlands for further assistance!

7. Women's and Gender History

For the study of women's history there are some good edited collections of primary sources for the history of women in the early modern period in the Albert Sloman Library, as well as some facsimile editions of conduct books and ballad collections. There is also a good microfilm collection entitled Women's Language and Experience 1500-1940: women's diaries and related sources (in Essex library at MIC 942). This is a huge microfilm collection, accompanied by a printed guide, which has personal writings by a few early modern women (although most of the writings it contains are by women from the latter part of this period, and especially the 19th century). The Library also has microfilm collections of primary sources for the campaign for women's suffrage, women's activities during the First World War and women in America and Peru. Check the Microforms Guide and the specific microfilm catalogues in the library for more details.

Another good starting point is The Women’s Library (formerly the Fawcett Library) Old Castle St, London E1 7NT. It has an excellent collection of primary and secondary sources for the history of women: check out the catalogues section of the web-site http://www.thewomenslibrary.ac.uk/ Here you can also find out details about opening hours, contact phone numbers, etc. Student ID is usually required.


A good book for finding sources relating to women in local record offices generally is Resources for Women's History in Greater Manchester, by the Manchester Women's History Group, 1993 (in the Essex library at ZHQ 1593).