



Pathfinder: Ancient Civilizations Project

Introduction It is often hard to know where to begin your research for a history paper or project. We hope that this Pathfinder will make it easier for you to obtain the information you need for a good paper or project. It is important that you have your assignment sheet with you as you go through these steps so that you do not overlook anything important. Before you start looking for books and taking notes, you should think about:

Citations All projects and papers require you to list the sources of your information in a **Bibliography** and to give credit for quotes, statistics, images, and ideas from other people in **Footnotes**. Your assignment sheet probably gives the expected format for these. If it does not, several good sources showing how to set up your bibliography and footnotes are:

A Guide to MLA Documentation by Trimmer (808.02/T831)

A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations by Turabian (808.02/T92)

MLA Style Manual by Gibaldi (808.027/G437/Ref)

Step 1 Check the **non-circulating Reference Books** in the library to get a **General Idea** of what is available on your topic. Some of the books you might look at are:

Dictionary of World Biography (B02/D554/Ref)

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations (Ref. 903/W927)

Great Events from History (Ref. 909)

Dictionary of the Middle Ages (Ref. 909)

History of the Ancient and Medieval World (Ref. 930/H673)

Oxford Classical Dictionary (Ref. 938/98)

Oxford Companion to Classical Civilizations (Ref. 938/O98C)

The Ancient Near East (Ref. 939.4/A541)

Encyclopedia of Asian History (Ref 950)

Peoples of Africa (Ref.960/P419)

History of Africa South of the Sahara (Ref. 907/E56)

Great Events from History (Ref. 970/G786)

Archeology of Ancient Mexico and Central America (Ref. 972/A669)

MacMillan Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes (Ref.970.1/J68)

Also check the **non-circulating Reference Books** by **Specific Topic** for example:

Handbook to Life in Ancient Egypt (Ref. 932/D429)

Encyclopedia of the Roman Empire (Ref. 937/B942)

Who's Who in the Greek World (Ref. 938/H429)

Encyclopedia of the Ancient Greek World ((Ref. 938)

Medieval England: An Encyclopedia (Ref. 942/M489)

Japan: An Illustrated Encyclopedia (Ref. 952)

History of Precolonial Africa (Ref.960.2/E56)

Ancient Americans (Ref.970/S363)

Step 2 Find out what **circulating books** on your topic are owned by the **Morse Institute Library** by:

A. Searching the catalog by:

Subject

Keyword

Title of a book

Author

B. Copy down the title, author, and Dewey Decimal number of books(s) you are interested in and go to the shelves.

C. Look through each book's table of contents and index to see what might be helpful.

Step 3 Check the **Minuteman Library Network catalog** (www.mln.lib.ma.us) and choose "All Locations Collection" from the pull-down menu to see what other libraries have books on your topic. You can request a book on-line from the library or from home if you have set up a PIN number with the library. If you haven't set a PIN number, you can fill out a request slip at the library for the book you want and the librarians will put in the request for you.

Step 4 If you need **Periodicals** for your report:

A. Go to the **Minuteman Library Network Catalog** page and click on "Databases and Internet Websites". Then select either "In-Library" or "Home Access" depending where you are.

B. You can use several databases to search for articles:

General Reference Center
Expanded Academic
Infotrac Student Edition

C. It is helpful to check “full text” before you enter the keywords for your search. By doing so, you’ll retrieve the whole article instead of an abstract summary.

D. Other resources available to you are the “Historic Boston Globe” and “Historic New York Times.” “Historic Boston Globe” is only available in the library. Combined, these two databases contain full articles and pictures for each newspaper from the late 19th century up until 2001. A librarian will help you use these resources.

E. Several libraries in the Minuteman Library Network have the periodical *History Today* which has excellent articles on European and world history. Several libraries also have the periodicals *Europe-Asia Studies*, *Calliope*, *The Muslim World and Russia*, *Eurasian States*, and *Eastern Europe*. Ask a librarian to help you search for and request these.

F. Some periodicals are available on the Web through these sites:

World History Periodicals On-Line
<http://vlib.iue.it/history/index.html>

European History Resources
<http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/History/tm/europe.html>

Step 5 Many history assignments require the use of **Primary Sources** (documents written at the time of the event.) Use the library catalog to search for these using such key words as: “your topic and primary sources”, “your topic and documents”. Some examples of primary source collections are listed below:

A. **In the Natick library**

World History: Original and Secondary Source Readings (909/W927)

Eyewitness to History (909/E97)

Dictionary of Historical documents (Ref. 909)

The History of Europe (940/H4)

The Western Tradition (909.09/W529)

B. **On the Web**

Preseus Digital Library of Classical Sources

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/>

Internet Modern History Sourcebook

<http://www.forham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html>

Step 7 Other Useful Sites on the Web

Exploring Ancient World Cultures

<http://eawc.evansville.edu/index.htm>

Bryn Mawr Classical Review

<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/>

Portals to World History

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/portals.html>

http://www.historylink101.com/site_map.htm

Hyperhistory Online

http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/main.html

Art and World History

<http://arthist.cla.umn.edu/aict/html/>

Food and Recipes from World History

<http://www.foodtimeline.org/>

Images of Women in Ancient Art

<http://www.arthistory.sbc.edu/imageswomen/f3-women.html>

Women in World History

<http://www.distinguishedwomen.com/alphabet/alphabet.html>

Ancient Inventions

http://www.smith.edu/hsc/museum/ancient_inventions/

History of World Religions

<http://www.virtualreligion.net/vri/>

European History Resources

<http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/History/tm/europe.html>

Ancient Greece

<http://www.omnibusol.com/angreece.html>

<http://www.ancient-greece.org/>

Ancient Rome

<http://www.historylink102.com/Rome/index.htm>

Ancient India

<http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/ANCINDIA/CONTENTS.HTM>

Ancient China

<http://acc6.its.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~phalsall/other.html>

Ancient Japan

<http://www.lib.duke.edu/ias/eac/histwww.htm>

Ancient Africa

<http://www.princeton.edu/~pressman/africa.html>

<http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/guide.html>

Mesoamerica and South America

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/history/>

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/subject/social/>

Google and Google Images

<http://www.google.com>

Step 8 Historical Atlases

A. In the Natick Library

Atlas of World History (Oversize 911/W927)

Harper Atlas of World History (Ref 911)

Complete Atlas of World History (911/C737/Ref.)

National Geographic Atlas of World History (Ref. 912/N277)

Cultural Atlas of Ancient Egypt ((Ref. 932/B162)

Cultural Atlas of China ((Ref. 951/B658)

Atlas of the North American Indian (Ref. 970/W164)

B. On the Web

Historical Maps on Line

<http://www.sunysb.edu/libmap/coordinates/seriesb/no3/b3.htm>

To find other atlases, enter the words World History Atlas as a search string using **Keyword** in the **Minuteman Library Network Catalog** (www.min.lib.ma.us)

Step 8 Timelines Timelines are helpful in understanding the causes and effects of events. Many assignments require that you submit a time line with your paper. Some useful timelines may be found in:

A. The Natick Library

New York Public Library Book of Chronologies (902 Ref.)

Chronicle of the World (902.02/C557/Ref.)

Harper Atlas of World History (911/Ref.)

Timetables of History (Ref. 902)

B. Timelines on the Web

<http://www2.canisius.edu/~emeryg/time.html>

To find other timelines, enter the words World-History-Chronology or Chronology, Historical as a search string using **Keyword** in the **Minuteman Library Network Catalog** (www.min.lib.ma.us)