



Pathfinder: Country Studies 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:

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

The Modern World (Ref. 909/H673)

History Behind the Headlines (Ref. 909/H672)

20th Century (909.82/Ref)

Columbia Gazetteer of the World (Ref. 910.3/C726)

World Geography (Ref. 910/E56G)

Geographical Dictionary (Ref.90\10.3/M568)

People and Places (Ref. 910.3/W927)

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

Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World (Ref. 909/O98)

Encyclopedia of Asian History (Reef 950)

Encyclopedia of Modern Asia (Ref. 960/P419)

Peoples of Africa (Ref.960/P419)

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

Encyclopedia of Eastern Europe (Ref. 947/E56)

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** (www.mln.lib.ma.us). 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. Some periodicals are available on the Web through these sites:

World Newspapers On-Line

<http://library.uncg.edu/news/>

<http://www.ipl.org/div/news/>

Step 5 Some Useful Sites on the Web

International Affairs and Global Studies Resources

<http://www2.etown.edu/vl/>

The World Fact Book

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

Foreign Country Studies

<http://www.library.okstate.edu/govdocs/browsetopics/foreignc.html>

Country Briefings

<http://www.economist.com/countries/>

Country Studies

<http://countrystudies.us/>

Country Profiles

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

Country Profiles from the United Nations

<http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/infonation3/menu/countries/0.asp>

Country Studies and International News

<http://www3.babson.edu/library/countries/>

Countries A to Z

http://www.atlappedia.com/online/country_index.htm

Country Statistics and Comparisons

<http://www.nationmaster.com/>

Country and Global Statistics

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

Foreign Embassies in the U.S.

<http://www.embassy.org/embassies/>

Step 6 Atlases

A. In the Natick Library

Atlas of Global Change (550/G562/Ref.)

Atlas of South America (912.68/Ref.)

Macmillian Centennial Atlas of the World (Ref.-Atlas Case)

Atlas of World History (Oversize 911/W927)

Atlas of Twentieth Century World History (911/Ref.)

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

B. On the Web

MapMachine

<http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/>

Country Physical and Political Maps

http://www.atlapedia.com/online/map_index.htm

Historical Maps on Line

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

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