



Natick's Community Library  
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## Pathfinder: European History 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:

*Great Events from History: The Modern Europe Series* (940 Ref.)

*Encyclopedia of Eastern Europe* (Ref. 947/E56)

*Dictionary of the History of Ideas* (901 Ref.)

*History Behind the Headlines* (Ref. 909/H672)

*20<sup>th</sup> Century* (909.82/Ref)

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

*Dictionary of the Middle Ages* (Ref. 909)

*Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment* (Ref. 940.25/E56)

*Chronicle of the French Revolution* (944.04/Ref.)

*Encyclopedia of the Holocaust* (Ref. 940.53/E56F)

**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](http://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 19<sup>th</sup> 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* 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:

*Bryn Mawr Classical Review*

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

European History Resources

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

European History-Selected Internet Resources by Region

<http://www.library.yale.edu/rsc/history/european/siresreg.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”, or “Europe-History-Sources.” Some examples of collections of primary sources are listed below:

**A. In the Natick library**

*The History of Europe* (940/H4)

*Rise of Fascism in Europe* (335.6/B658)

*The Western Tradition* (909.09/W529)

*The Renaissance Reader* (808.8./P839)

**B. On the Web**

European History-Selected Internet Resources by Region

<http://www.library.yale.edu/rsc/history/european/siresreg.html>

European History Resources

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

Euro Documents

<http://library.byu.edu/~rdh/eurodocs/>

Internet Modern History Sourcebook

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

Repositories for Primary Sources

<http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html>

Common-Place

<http://www.common-place.com>

Google and Google Images

<http://www.google.com>

## Step 6 Historical Atlases

### A. In the Library

*New Cambridge Modern History* , Vol. 14 (912/Ref.)

*Atlas of World History* (Oversize 911/W927)

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

*Russian History Atlas* (947/G46)

### 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 European History Atlas as a search string using **Keyword** in the **Minuteman Library Network Catalog** ([www.min.lib.ma.us](http://www.min.lib.ma.us))

**Step 7 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.)

*Timelines of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (909.82/B885/Ref)

*Harper Atlas of World History* (911/Ref.)

### B. Timelines on the Web

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

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