



14 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760

www.morseinstitute.org

Telephone :508-647-6520

Fax : 508-647-6627

### **Pathfinder: Native American Cultures**

**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:

*The Ancient Americans* (Ref 970/S363)

*The North American Indian* (Ref 970/W164)

*Native American Handbook* (Ref 970.1)

*Handbook of North American Indians* (Ref 970.1)

*Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes* (970.1)

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

*Native Americans* (Ref 970.1 P961)

*Who Was Who In Native American History* (Ref 970.2)

*From Abenaki to Zuni* (Ref 970.3)

*Archaeology of Ancient Mexico and Central America* (Ref 972/A669)

*Vanished Mesoamerican Civilizations* (Ref 972.74/G643)

**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)) 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](http://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. The Morse Institute Library and other libraries in the Minuteman Library Network have many periodicals that might help you such as American Heritage, Smithsonian, American History Illustrated. Ask a librarian to help you search for and request these.

**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" or "your topic and documents." Some examples of collections of primary sources are listed below:

**A. In the library**

*Indian New England* (074/I39)

*It Is A Good Day To Die* (J973.82/VI0)

*Greenwood Press Daily Life Through History Series*

*Annals of America* (Ref. 973)

*Greenwood Press Guides to Historic Events of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*

*Documents of American History* by Henry Steele Commanger (Ref. 973/Ref)

## **B. On the Web**

Native American Studies' Resources (Yale University)

<http://www.library.yale.edu/rsc/native/internet.html>

Native American Resources (James Madison University)

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/native.htm>

Native American page with 300 Links

<http://www.kstrom.net/isk/mainmenu.html>

Native American Resources

[http://www.digital-librarian.com/american\\_indian\\_studies.html](http://www.digital-librarian.com/american_indian_studies.html)

On This Date in Native American History

<http://americanindian.net/>

Native American Images

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

North American Cultural/Ethnic Resources

<http://at-la.com/@la-amer.htm#oatedu>

Native Web & Resources

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

Internet Modern History Sourcebook

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

Hyperhistory Online

[http://www.hyperhistory.com/online\\_n2/History\\_n2/main.html](http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/main.html)

Art and World History

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

Women in World History

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

Common-Place

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

## Step 6 Historical Atlases

### A. In the Library

*Atlas of American History* by Kenneth Jackson (911/Ref)

*Atlas of Westward Expansion* by Alan Wexler (911/W545)

*Mapping America's Past* by Mark C. Carnes (911/C289/Ref)

### 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](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 Library

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

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

*Millennium, Year by Year* (Ref. 902.08/M6464)

*Timetables of History* (Ref. 902)

*The American Story: what, when, where, why of our nation's history* (973/A512Re)

### 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 for either Subject or Keyword in the **Minuteman Library Network Catalog** ([www.min.lib.ma.us](http://www.min.lib.ma.us)).