RESEARCHING OBERLIN

Start with the library’s guide to Oberlin history sources. From the library’s home page:

Research Sources → By Subject → Oberlin History

or navigate to http://www.oberlin-college-library.org/sp/subjects/guide.php?subject=OBERLIN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PERIODS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Social history of the United States generally

Encyclopedia of American Social History, Main Reference HN57.E58 1993

early/mid-1940s: Japanese Americans in WWII/Art sanctuary


late-1960s to 1970: Vietnam/Kent State/Requiem Concert


mid-2000s to present: sanctuary city/campus movement, immigrant /LGBTQ protection

Undocumented Immigrants in the United States: An Encyclopedia of Their Experience,
Main Reference JV6475 .U48 2014
Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History in America, e-book,
Main Reference HQ76.3.U5 E53 2004

WHAT ABOUT WIKIPEDIA? “the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit”

Articles may help you refine ideas, and the notes and references may help you find additional sources, but keep in mind that the “crowd-sourced” nature of Wikipedia means that while the information may be immensely useful, it’s not necessarily scholarly, authoritative, or the type of source to include in a bibliography for an academic paper. Category pages can be especially useful... some suggestions:

Category:1940s
Category:United States home front during World War II
Category:Anti-Japanese sentiment in the United States

Category:1960s
Category:Counterculture of the 1960s
Lists of protests against the Vietnam War

Category:2000s
Category:Illegal immigration to the United States
Category:LGBT history in the United States
Articles on “Sanctuary movement,” “Sanctuary city,” etc.
FINDING BOOKS AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS

OBIS is the Oberlin College Library’s online catalog; it lists most library materials. OBIS is searchable by Author or Title for a specific author or work, or by Subject Heading or Keyword for works about a topic, person, place, etc.

For Subject searches – selected potentially useful Library of Congress Subject Headings:

Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
World War, 1939-1945 -- Japanese Americans
World War, 1939-1945 -- Art and the war

Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Protest movements
Kent State Shootings, Kent, Ohio, 1970

Sanctuary movement
Illegal aliens -- United States

Use KEYWORD and ADVANCED searches to find book chapters/articles, and works on multiple topics:
examples: japanese american internment vietnam protest* sanctuary cit*

USING DATABASES TO FIND ARTICLES IN SCHOLARLY, ACADEMIC JOURNALS

Connect from Databases tab on the Library home page search box, or use the Quick Links drop-down menu

Multidisciplinary
History
Politics
Sociology
Academic Search Complete
America: History & Life
PAIS Index
Peace Research Abstracts
Worldwide Political Science Abstracts
SociINDEX

To determine if the library has a particular journal, Use “360 Link to Full Text” or “Find It!” when available in research databases, or select the Journal Finder tab on Library home page or from the Quick Links pull-down menu

USING DATABASES TO FIND ARTICLES IN POPULAR AND CONTEMPORARY SOURCES

Connect from Databases tab on the Library home page search box, or use the Quick Links drop-down menu

Newspapers
Magazines
Newspaper Source (1984-present)
Los Angeles Times (1881-1992)
The New York Times (1851-2014)
Left Index (mostly 1982-present)
MasterFILE Premier (mostly 20th c.-present)
Readers’ Guide Abstracts (1983-present)
Readers’ Guide Retrospective (1890-1982)

SUMMON – first tab on library home page search box

• searches across the spectrum of library content: books, scholarly articles, newspapers, audio, video, images, data, government documents, and more; searches most, but not all, library resources
• draws from OBIS, full text and article indexing databases, and digital repositories from colleges, universities, research centers, and other open-access archives
• comprehensive or complex searches should be done in subject-specific databases
• OBIS and OhioLINK are generally better for finding books
• if links don’t lead to full text, be persistent or ask for help; we sometimes do have access

CITING YOUR SOURCES

Purdue Online Writing Lab (aka the OWL). Maintained by Perdue University.
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/
See the Research and Citation section for examples of how to cite resources using APA, MLA, and Chicago citation styles.

HOW TO GET MATERIALS NOT AVAILABLE AT OBERLIN

OhioLINK/SearchOhio
• combines the holdings of 120 colleges and university libraries, and 28 public library systems, in Ohio
  ❧ does not include delivery of journal articles – see section below on ILL
• to request: do-it-yourself online searching and requesting
• Barcode is the number on the back of your OCID (not your T-number)
• how long it takes: allow 3-4 business days
• loan period: 3 weeks + up to 6 three-week renewals if item has not been requested by someone else

Interlibrary Loan (ILL or ILLiad)
• use for: articles in journals not available at Oberlin, books not available from OhioLINK
• how it works: libraries lend materials to each other; journal articles are usually sent as scanned PDFs
• to request: select “ILLiad/Interlibrary Loan” from the Quick Links menu on the Library’s home page;
  set up an account; enter and track ILL requests online
• how long it takes: allow 1-2 weeks, though many articles arrive much more quickly
• loan period: journal articles are yours to keep; loan period for books varies

HOW TO GET RESEARCH HELP AT THE LIBRARY

Librarians are available to assist with your research projects:
✓ Help focus and define research topics
✓ Find information for papers, projects, and presentations
✓ Locate books, journal articles, and other library materials
✓ Develop effective search strategies for online databases
✓ Identify useful web sites and internet resources
✓ Evaluate the quality of web sites and other information sources
✓ Track down facts and statistical data
✓ Learn how to use the library and its resources

Drop-in help at the Main Library Research Desk. Just stop by and tell us what you need
Monday–Thursday: 10am–noon, 1–5pm, & 7pm–midnight
Friday: 10am–noon & 1–5pm
Weekend: Sat.: 2–4 pm, Sunday: 1–5pm & 7 pm–midnight

IM. Chat online with a member of Oberlin’s reference staff (ObieRef) – hours same as above
Phone. 440-775-5031 – hours same as above
Email. reference@oberlin.edu – any time
Research appointment. Sign up online from the library home page

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