

Bibliography assignment 1: Finding secondary sources

Due: Thurs., Feb. 15, 2:30 PM

The first step for any historian starting a research project, including students writing a research paper in an upper-division history course, is finding out what has already been published on their topic. This assignment should familiarize you with the main types of reference materials that historians use to compile their bibliographies.

At the second class meeting, you signed up for a topic for the first few assignments. Compile a bibliography of reference sources necessary for researching this topic. Please arrange your bibliography under the assigned categories in the order given below. Include the following categories:

1. Two Library of Congress subject headings
2. The titles of three scholarly historical periodicals likely to publish articles and book reviews related to your assigned topic
3. One historical dictionary
4. One specialized or historical encyclopedia
5. One biography collection (not a biography index)
6. One index of scholarly periodicals (not the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature)
7. One subject bibliography

Items 3-7 should conform to the bibliography formats given in Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. If they do not, you will not receive credit for the assignment and will have to revise it and turn it in again.

Evaluation

Your grade will be determined according to the following criteria, as well as the accuracy of the information you give.

To get a D on this assignment: Consult *The Craft of Research*, "An Appendix on Finding Sources." Choose the item in each category that is most likely to list secondary sources useful in researching your topic. Make a bibliography of these items.

To get a C on this assignment: Complete the requirements for a D. In addition, look each item up in the University Library catalogue, or, if it is not available in the University Library, in the Five College Catalogue and Boston Library Consortium (BLC) catalogue. Add the catalogue name and the call number to each bibliography entry (e.g. BLC D16.F94 1992).

To get a B on this assignment: Complete the requirements for a C. In addition, add to each bibliography item two sentences explaining specifically how the materials described in that source will help you research your topic. Going to the library and examining each source will help you write accurate explanations.

To get an A on this assignment: Complete the requirements for a B. In addition, add an extra item to each category in your bibliography (including call number, if applicable, and two descriptive sentences). These items should not be listed in *The Craft of Research*; rather, they should be reference sources applicable to your topic that you yourself have discovered.