

# Searching *Historical Abstracts*

## What is *Historical Abstracts*?

*Historical Abstracts* is a database of bibliographic citations and abstracts on all aspects of world history from 1450 to the present except that of the U.S. and Canada (covered in *America: History and Life*). It contains references to journal articles, books, book chapters, and dissertations. The database includes the key history journals from virtually every major country and a selection of social science and humanities journals. It contains materials from 1954 to the present.

## How do I get to it?

From the library's homepage at [www.usfca.edu/library](http://www.usfca.edu/library)

- Go to *Start Your Research*.
- Select *History* then *Journal and Newspaper Articles*.
- Click on *Historical Abstracts* to begin your search.

## Does it have the full text of articles?

*Historical Abstracts* has citations and abstracts only.

To find the full text of a citation click on 

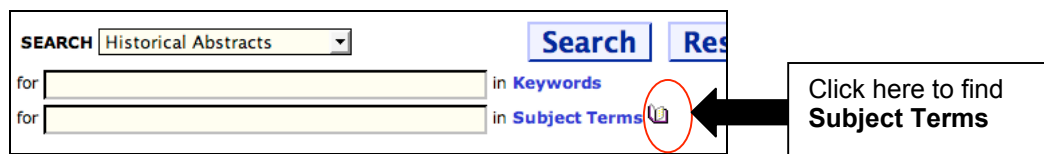
## To Begin Your Search

Enter your keyword(s) and click *Search*. To search for a phrase (such as "latin america" or "cultural revolution") enclose your phrase in quotation marks.

## Searching Tips

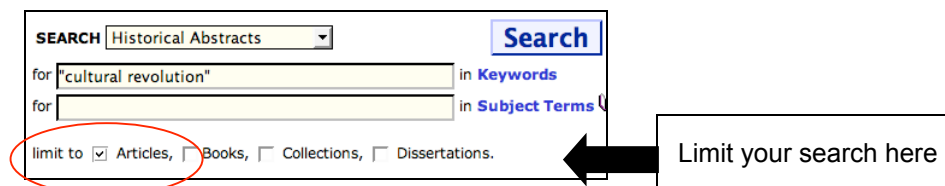
### To find Subject Terms and refine your search:

- Click on the book next to *Subject Terms* on the search screen. This will take you to a screen where you can look for subject terms relating to your topic and add them to your keyword search.



### To find ONLY journal articles:

- Check the *limit to articles* box.



## More Searching Tips

### To read the abstract of an article:

- Click on *Expand Record* at the right. If the citation includes an abstract it will appear in the expanded record view. Not all citations include abstracts.

### To reduce or expand your results:

- Connect your search terms with operators.

OPERATOR	EXAMPLE	SEARCH RESULT
AND	military AND soldiers	Both terms must be present. Reduces results.
OR	military OR soldiers	Either term can be present. Increases results.
NOT	military NOT soldiers	Excludes second term. Limits results.
*	comput*	Retrieves records with the terms computer, computes, computing, computation, etc.

## Use CLIO Notes to Get Ideas for Topics

You can use *Historical Abstracts* CLIO Notes to get a brief overview of a time period in history and get ideas for topics.

- At the top of the main search page (just above the *Search* button), click *CLIO Notes*.
- Select a region and time period from the dropdown menu to view a chronology and an overview of key events. Click on a topic to read a brief summary.
- At the bottom of each topic page, there are suggested research ideas and subject terms to get you started on your research. You can select subject terms, add your own keywords, and search directly from each topic page.

## How can I print or email my results?

- To email a single citation, type your email address in the *e-mail to* box just below the citation you want.
- To print or email a list of citations, check *Tagged* in each citation you want. Then click *Export Options* at the top of the page. Select the citation format and output type (email, RefWorks, EndNote, ProCite, Reference Manager, or ASCII Display) and click *Send*.

## Questions?

- Click on **Help** to learn more about *Historical Abstracts*.
- Or contact Reference Services at (415) 422-2039 or at [reference@usfca.edu](mailto:reference@usfca.edu)