

Resources for HIS 226 The U.S. Civil War Research Paper

QVCC Librarians
Library@qvcc.edu
860.932.4007

Here are many possible resources – you do not need to use them all!

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Topic Narrowing

- Trying to find a topic and don't know where to start? Or, trying to take a great big, broad idea and narrow down to a focused, manageable research project? These tools can help:
 - Find a Topic with [Mind Mapping](#)
 - Find a Topic with [Wheel & Tile](#) displays

Background Information

- To become familiar with your topic, start by reviewing background information from encyclopedias. The following are all available through the QVCC Library's [Find Books](#) webpage. If you are accessing from off-campus, you will be prompted to login with your MyCommnet ID and password. Formatted source citations available! Look for the citation tool.
 - [Credo Reference](#) – 800 e-reference books in all subject areas.
 - [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) – 300+ e-reference books in all subject areas.
 - [Encyclopedia Britannica](#) – the complete encyclopedia.

Primary vs. Secondary Sources – What is the difference?

- Not sure? Watch this 3 ½ minute [video](#) published by the Hartness Library

Primary Sources Online

Here are some websites to get you started. Not finding what you need? Ask a librarian for assistance: library@qvcc.edu and 860.932.4007.

- **AMERICAN CIVIL WAR**
 - [National Archives: Civil War](#)
 - This will be your go-to site for primary resources for this paper. You will probably see the Archive cited in many of the secondary sources you look at.
 - [American Civil War Music & Resources](#)
 - Music, Maps, Photographs, etc. from the Library of Congress Performing Arts Encyclopedia.
 - [The American Civil War Trust](#)
 - A non-profit organization dedicated to the preserving American's battlefields. Also has a nice curation of primary source documents.
 - [The Abraham Lincoln Papers](#)
 - [Valley of the Shadow Project](#)
 - A digital archive of primary sources detailing the perspectives of both North and South.
 - [Torn in Two: Mapping the American Civil War](#)
 - An exhibition by the Digital Public Library of America.

- [Digital History](#)
 - A site with both primary and secondary sources on the Civil War.
- [The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies](#)
 - Civil War documents compiled by Cornell University Library.
- [Congressional Globe](#)
 - Contains the congressional debates of the 23rd through 42nd Congresses (1833-73).
- [Son of the South](#)
 - Over 7000 pages of Civil War content, including the complete run of Harper's Weekly from the Civil War years.

Secondary Sources Online

- **Academic Books** on all subject areas, available through the QVCC Library's [Find Books](#) webpage. Read online, download and print sections or whole chapters. If you are accessing from off-campus, you will be prompted to login with your MyCommnet ID and password. Formatted source citations available! Look for the citation tool.
 - [Ebrary](#) includes over 135,000 books. Search tools take you immediately to the pages and segments you need.
 - [Ebsco eBooks](#) includes over 160,000 books. Search tools take you immediately to the pages and segments you need.
- **Scholarly Articles from Academic Journals**, available through QVCC Library's Find Articles webpage. If you are accessing from off-campus, you will be prompted to login with your MyCommnet ID and password. Formatted source citations available! Look for the citation tool.
 - [Academic Search Premier](#) includes peer-reviewed journals in all subjects, as well as some results from reviews, magazines and newspapers.
 - [History Reference Center](#) includes articles, documents, photos and maps. Use the timeline tool to limit results to the period you want to study.
 - [World History in Context](#) includes articles and excerpts from a variety of sources: books, journals, magazines and some primary sources.
- **Digital images of art and relics** from the ancient world through the modern era can be found using [ARTstor](#). This is another QVCC Library resource that will require logging in if you are off-campus.
- **Streaming video** through [Films on Demand](#) is available from the QVCC library and includes thousands of documentaries. Each documentary is broken up into brief segments to make it easy to focus your time on just what you need to watch. You will be prompted to login from off-campus.

Secondary Sources – [Print Books & DVDs](#)

- Yes, the QVCC Library has thousands of print books and even DVDs on the shelves! Search by keyword from anywhere with Internet access, or visit the library and ask for assistance.

Evaluating Websites Using the CRAAP Method

- Anyone can post anything to the Internet. Use the [CRAAP Method](#) (currency, relevance, authority, accuracy, and purpose) to determine which websites are credible for your research.

Citing Your Sources

- Follow your instructor's requirements!
- **Copy and paste suggested citations from any online QVCC Library resources.** All QVCC digital books, articles, images and videos include suggested citations in a variety of formats.
- Need to create a citation from scratch for a non-library resources?
 - Use this [citation guide](#) on the QVCC Library webpage for formatting, or
 - Use the citation management tools in *Word* or *Office 365*, or
 - Use an online citation generator. We like [KnightCite](#), maintained by the Hekman Library at Calvin College.

Need assistance? Contact the QVCC Librarians

library@qvcc.edu

860.932.4007

Danielson Library Hours

9:00-8:30 Monday-Thursday

9:00-2:00 Friday

Closed weekends

Willimantic – Librarians are available:

Mondays 9am-1pm

Wednesdays 9am-5pm

AND by appointment!