

# America: History and Life: quick start guide

This database is very good for finding journal articles on US and Canadian history from pre-history to the present.

## Getting started

1. Go to the library homepage at <http://library.leeds.ac.uk> or to the **Learn** tab in Minerva.
2. Type **America: History and Life** into the Library search box.
3. Select **America: History and Life** from the results list.
4. Click on the link **America: history and life -- EBSCO Databases** to enter the database.

## Searching America: History and Life

1. Combine keywords with AND, OR, NOT using the drop-down menus.

2. Type your keywords into the search boxes. You can combine terms with OR in a single box.

3. Many different search options: All Text, Author, Title, Journal Source and others.

4. Limit your search by type of document, date published, and many more.

The screenshot displays the EBSCO search interface for the 'America: History & Life' database. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'New Search', 'Cited References', 'CLIO Notes', and 'Indexes'. Below this is the search input area with the text 'Searching: America: History & Life' and a 'Choose Databases' dropdown. There are three search boxes with 'AND' selected in the first, and 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons. Below the search area is the 'Search Options' section, which includes 'Search Modes and Expanders' with radio buttons for 'Boolean/Phrase', 'Find all my search terms', 'Find any of my search terms', and 'SmartText Searching'. There are also checkboxes for 'Apply related words', 'Limit your results' (with sub-options for 'Linked Full Text', 'Peer Reviewed', 'References Available'), and 'Historical Period' with fields for 'Year', 'Era', and 'to Year'.



## Combining keywords

- Use AND to search for both the words and narrow the search, eg America AND reforms
- Use OR to search for either of your terms and broaden your search, eg America OR Canada
- Use Not to completely exclude a term, eg American NOT Canadian

## Understanding your results

The screenshot shows a search results page with the following elements:

- 1. Refine your results using the limits in the left hand column.** This callout points to the 'Refine your results' section on the left, which includes checkboxes for 'Linked Full Text', 'References Available', and 'Peer Reviewed', as well as a 'Publication Date' filter set to 1963 and a 'Source Types' section with 'All Results' selected.
- 2. Click on the article title for further details, including an abstract if available.** This callout points to the title of the first article: 'Selling Elegant Glassware During the Great Depression: A. H. Heisey & Company and the New Deal.'
- 3. Add to folder to save, email, print or export references to EndNote.** This callout points to the 'Add to folder' button and the 'check@leeds' link below it.
- 4. Use the check@leeds link to find out if the full text is available via the library catalogue.** This callout points to the 'check@leeds' link.

The article details shown include: 'Academic Journal', 'Subjects: A. H. Heisey & Co.; GLASSWARE industry; DEPRESSIONS -- 1929; NEW Deal, 1933-1939; LIQUOR laws; MARKETING; GLASS; GLASS craft; ECONOMIC policy; DEPRESSIONS', 'Database: America: History & Life', 'Relevancy: [progress bar]', and 'Cited References: (125)'.

## Cited References

If you click the **Cited References** link on a result, a new screen presents a list of records/references which have been cited/used in your article.

## Finding the full text of an article

The **check@leeds** link opens a new window. It may give you a variety of different options:

- There may be an **online full text** link to the article online.
- If there is no direct link available, check@leeds will try and find a link to our **print copies** of the journal.
- Alternatively, click on the link to the library catalogue to search for the title of the journal.

## Getting help

- Click on **Help** in the top right corner of the database search screen.
- Contact Library enquiries: <https://library.leeds.ac.uk/contact/enquiries>