About History Study Center™

History Study Center (HSC) offers schools valuable historical reference material that covers more than 2000 years of history – from ancient to modern, old world to new world. Explore the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, the growth of Islam, the ideas of Enlightenment and Revolution, the effects of colonialism, the explosion of American pop culture, and much more. It's a unique reference tool that delivers a comprehensive collection of primary and secondary source material relevant to the study of history and social studies.

Part 1: Submit a Search Query

You can access HSC in two ways: through an eLibrary Canada Curriculum Edition (CE) subscription, or directly through a standard HSC subscription. To search HSC through eLibrary Canada CE, click the History icon on the main search screen and follow the directions below.

HSC research begins at the main search page. You can search the database using a simple keyword search query (Quick Search), Advanced Search, follow the Study Unit; browse libraries of resources and Web sites, or through our KnowledgeNotes History Guides located in the Maps & Reference.

To submit a simple keyword search query (Quick Search)

1. Type one or more keywords in the Quick Search text box (A).
2. Putting quotation marks around a phrase will allow HSC to search for an exact phrase, e.g. "Hudson's Bay Company".
3. Click the Go! button (B). HSC searches the database for documents matching your search query and displays a list of matching documents in the form of a results page (discussed in Part 2).
Optional advanced search features

HSC Advanced Search (C) offers additional search fields that enable you to limit your search results to a particular content type or title or limit a search to biographical material only.

Note that you can access this advanced search page by clicking Refine Search at the top of any results page.

Here’s a brief description of the Advanced Search (each of these options is also available from the main search page for individual searching):

- **Study Units** is comprised of a brief introduction to the topic followed by a range of links to reference works, biographies, maps, primary sources, images, video, secondary sources, and Web resources.

- **Historical Documents** search allows you to precisely search the historical document content in History Study Center.

- **Maps and Reference** access to search for maps and reference articles and topic overviews using a variety of options. The Topic Overviews area allows you to access information from the KnowledgeNotes History Guides. These guides are specifically designed for history students to complement the reading and guidance provided by teachers. There are two types of History Guides, topic-based guides and text-based guides. Text guides deal with two different types of text, key historical documents (designed to aid understanding of complex and unfamiliar primary source material) and important works of historiography. Topic guides cover significant trends and events in history, ranging from themes such as witchcraft in early modern Europe, to definable events such as the Vietnam War. Each guide combines detailed analysis of the topic or text with introductory and contextual material and suggestions for further reading. Also included in this section are Oxford Very Short Introduction to specific historical topics.

- **Multimedia** includes Images, Video and Web links. Choose Images if you want to search for editorially assured historical images. Choose Video if you want to search for editorially assured video clips. Choose the Web links if you are interested in searching for editorially assured historical web sites.

- Choose Journals if you want to search for articles from over 60 periodicals, selected for their relevance to historians. You have the option of searching all journal articles, limiting your search to book reviews only, or you may exclude book reviews from your search.
Part 2: Review Your Results List

After clicking the search button, a results page appears, summarizing your search success and listing those documents and other materials that match your search query.

The results summary allows you to jump down to that section of the results page. In this example, we clicked the Study Units link. You will notice the number of results found for each resource type is listed besides the heading.

Click a study unit on the list to open it, or select the More Results link to navigate through the available units on this topic. In the example shown below, we clicked the first study unit on the list to continue.

Part 3: Working With a Study Unit

After clicking a Study Unit title in the results list, the unit’s resource listing appears. The resources available include a brief introduction to the Study Unit topic (A), range of links to (Topic Overviews, Reference, etc.) that link to selected resources. (B). Below the range of links is the Highlights section. This section features the best documents from the various Study Unit sources to get students started with key materials.

*Note that the text is different color (C) to help learners find the most relevant text within the document.
Part 4: Working With a Full Document

After clicking a document title in the results list, the full text of that document appears. Note that in some cases the text is a different color to help learners find relevant text. In the example shown below, the document contains links to other relevant historical information.

Typical Document Page