

# Native Americans, First Contacts, and Colonial America

## An English 1302 Library Guide

This pathfinder is designed to provide an overview of resources available in the library on the topic of Native Americans and their first contacts with Europeans. It primarily covers the time period prior to the Revolutionary War.

### Reference Books: Get Ideas and Find Information

This is a selection of specialized books available in the W.I. Dykes Library Reference Collection. These books will provide you with some background information on your topic of interest, give you ideas for topics, show you vocabulary you can type into the databases, and list some other references for further reading.

Barett, Carole A., ed. *American Indian History*. Pasadena, CA: Salem Press, Inc., 2003.  
2 vols.  
REF E 77 .A496 2003

This two volume set is part of Magill's Choice Series known for various guides popular with students. The set includes 224 essays "covering the major events and developments in the history of Native Americans of North America, from the earliest prehistoric traditions through the activism and legislation of the present day" (ix). In terms of the books, North America refers to Canada and the United States. Entries are arranged alphabetically by keyword. Essays range from 250 to 3000 words and include topics such as "battles, treaties, legislation, court cases, protest movements, organizations, and institutions from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to tribal courts" (ix). The books include maps and illustrations as well as excellent indexing and appendixes.

Cooke, Jacob Ernest, ed. *Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1993. 3 vols.  
REF E 45 .E53 1993

Cooke's three volume set is organized by themes and topics. It is a very comprehensive work in terms of coverage and content, and it looks not only at the British colonial ventures but also at those of the Dutch, French, and Spanish. The *Encyclopedia* covers the North American continent from the first Norse settlements to 1860s Alaska. The work brings together 193 scholars that wrote 274 essays on topics in various academic fields such as history, anthropology, sociology, folklore, geography, theology, law, and arts. Essays range from 1000 to 15,000 words. The work features cross-references, maps, bibliographies (some annotated), and a chronology. The best way to fully access this work is to use the detailed index found in the third volume.

Faragher, John Mack, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Colonial and Revolutionary America*.  
New York: Facts on File, Inc., 1990.  
REF E 188 .E63 1990

The editor claims that this reference work is designed “as a quick reference to topics in the history of Colonial and Revolutionary America.” Entries are arranged alphabetically and include cross references. Major entries include small bibliographies.

Keenan, Jerry. *Encyclopedia of the American Indian Wars, 1492-1890*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 1997.  
REF E 81 .K44 1997

According to the author, the work is intended to provide readers with “quick access to a wide range of basic information pertaining to the four centuries of conflict between Indians and European colonists” (ix). Entries cover historical events, regional conflicts, individuals, and terms. The work is focused on the area of North America that became the United States. Entries are arranged alphabetically with cross references. The book also includes a selective bibliography.

### **Find Books Using the Library’s Catalog**

You can use the library’s catalog (<http://library.uh.edu/>) to locate books and other materials. The catalog will list items owned by the UH System Libraries, that means UHD as well as main campus and the campus at Clear Lake. Some possible keywords you can type in include, but are not limited to:

Native Americans	Indians	Puritans	Colonial history
British Colonies	North America	Plymouth Colony	Massachusetts Bay
Pilgrims	William Bradford	King Philip’s War	

It may also be useful to identify appropriate Library of Congress Subject Headings. Subject searching can yield more relevant and specific results because these searches use the exact language of the catalog. To identify LOC Subject Headings, you can do a keyword search. Once you have a list of results, open some of the records to see the citation. The LOC Subject Headings are live links which can you can click to expand your search. Some sample LOC Subject Headings include, but are not limited to:

Indians of North America-- First Contact with Europeans  
Indians of North America -- History -- Colonial Period, ca. 1600-1775  
United States—History – Colonial Period, ca. 1600-1775

You can also begin a catalog search using a subject search, but it requires knowing the exact subjects to type. To use the samples above, you do have to type them exactly as provided above.

## **Find Articles Using One of our Databases**

The databases listed below can assist researchers in locating periodical articles on Native American culture and history as well as on Colonial America. Other possibilities are available. Researchers can consult the library's website (<http://www.uhd.edu/library>) under <Find Articles> link. Researchers can then choose the <History> subject link to locate relevant databases.

Academic Search Premier	America: History and Life	J-Stor
History Cooperative	Omnifile	

## **Internet Resources**

The internet provides a broad range of resources on Native American culture and history. Listed below are a few selected general resources that provide links to various other resources of interest.

Recommended American Indian Websites

[http://www.public.iastate.edu/~savega/amer\\_ind.htm](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~savega/amer_ind.htm)

This is a collection of websites useful for research on Native Americans. Created and compiled by Susan A. Vega Garcia, of Iowa State University, the website features a list of various online resources on Native American cultures, history, and traditions.

Library of Congress: American Memory Project

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/>

According to the website, "American Memory provides free and open access through the Internet to written and spoken words, sound recordings, still and moving images, prints, maps, and sheet music that document the American experience." The Library of Congress's project provides access to various resources in Native American and in Colonial America history.

Internet Public Library: Pathfinder on Colonial America

<http://www.ipl.org/div/pf/entry/48454>

The Internet Public Library features a webpage listing various resources on Colonial America. It includes a list of websites with brief annotations. It also features some print resources, which researchers could look for in the library's catalog to see if the library

has them. Note that the Internet Public Library (<http://www.ipl.org>) can be searched for various related topics, often with good results.

#### Librarians' Index to the Internet

<http://lii.org>

This directory is maintained by librarians, and it is a very respected and reliable resource. According to the website, resources are reviewed at least twice before they are put on the listings. This means that listings have been evaluated, unlike results from search engines, which are often harvested by crawlers or robots. A search on “Native Americans” or “Indians of North America” will yield a good list of results. Researchers can also try a search on “Colonial America.”

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