



The Information-Literate Historian: A Guide to Research for History Students

Jenny L. Presnell

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Suitable for history students, this primer is a guide to doing research in order to write a research paper, create a website, or do a PowerPoint presentation. It talks about how to do research on the Internet and how to differentiate between reliable and unreliable historical information on the Web.

The Information-Literate Historian: A Guide to Research for History Students Details

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Author : Jenny L. Presnell

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From Reader Review The Information-Literate Historian: A Guide to Research for History Students for online ebook

Jessica says

I boring read, but it does have good and helpful info.

Nina says

I refer to this book when preparing for my History instruction sessions. It may not be the most elegantly written book, but it's certainly useful!

Autumn says

This is awesome. Basic guide to core information literacy skills from the perspective of a history student/instructor. I've ordered this for the library. This has already helped me 'sell' library instruction to a history professor.

I would be very interested in a follow-up. Maybe something a little more advanced? Maybe for graduate students?

Emma says

A very useful introduction to historical research.

Nicole Evelina says

Jam packed with useful information. i borrowed this from the library but will be buying as a reference.

Fredrick Danysh says

This is a useful tool for anyone doing historical research and writing. Discusses primary and secondary sources, taking notes, and gives many resources to expand searches. A discussion about online searches is also presented. I'm trying to get in a grad school history program and this book looks like it will be helpful if accepted.

says

Presnell's book is quite informative - particularly on the usage and critique of source materials. I can definitely see a need for a review of her methods by Tea Party whackos with some of the materials that have been posted as "research" concerning their opposition. Regardless, Presnell's methodologies and research hints/tips are quite well done. As has been suggested by other reviewers, this book is geared towards the undergraduate student, but is an excellent resource for the graduate student as well. While the focus is towards the History student, the material can be utilized as general knowledge for students of other disciplines as well.

Aisha says

Where was this book during my undergraduate degree?! It would have been so helpful in finding additional resources for my paper. This book is chalk full of indexes and websites I have never heard of that I will be using from now on. I highly recommend this to anyone who is studying history, particularly at the undergraduate level as this resources will take your research skills to the next level!

Aurora Dimitre says

|Read for Historiography and the Historical Profession|

Kathleen Guler says

A nice general guide on how to approach historical research. It was written for undergrad students, so the information is a little thin sometimes, but it is a quick read and covers the important issues. As a graduate student I found the book sort of a rehash of other text books. It does have a lot of great lists of databases to search. I would assume that in the future this information will need to be updated as anything regarding the internet will have rapidly changed, been added to or disappeared.

Rachel says

This was a fantastic book. It provides great resources for anyone writing a history paper. It was very accessible too (even if it was a bit dry).

Tara Brabazon says

I was hoping for a modern book about history and information literacy. As an historian by training, I have been increasingly concerned that history methods and theories are being decentred and erased through the domination of the hard sciences in public discussions of knowledge, discovery and innovation. Therefore, I

was hoping that this would be a revisionist monograph that would affirm the singularity and specificity of historical research.

I was disappointed. For a book published in 2013, it felt dated. It probably has value for North American students in a capstone course, or British students completing their third year dissertation. But that is the only level where this book has value.

Most disappointing is the attention to digitization. Considering the title, I thought this would be a post-web 2 discussion of historical sources. Instead, the discussion of primary sources went so far as the "archive of vintage radio broadcasts." Chapter Seven was titled - worryingly "History and the Internet." This chapter could have been written in the late 1990s, with no mention of Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest. All these applications have incredible value for historians, but require attendant information literacy skills.

Chapter nine moved "Beyond the written word," but not beyond high culture. So many of the biases from 19th and 20th century history and historiography remain that popular culture is still - to poach a cheeky phrase - the undiscovered country.

History is so important. Writing it well - with rigour, clarity and punch - is crucial, particularly in conservative times. Yet with so many sources available to re-write the dominant version of history, we find in this book conventional strategies to evaluate conventional evidence. The quality of information literacy theories - particularly when working with digital sources - remains invisible in this monograph.

Jill says

Recommend highly for both history students and history faculty -- excellent blending of using traditional and electronic sources, good chapter on statistics/data for historians, good discussion of various ways of presenting research beyond the traditional research paper. Also liked the inclusion of a real research paper, annotated to show its strengths.

Adelheid says

This book is good for undergraduate students and teachers of such. However, when it is assigned to help write a thesis, which two of my professors have done, something more in depth is needed. This does not fill the requirements of those who have written research papers and must now take the next step. This seems to repeat too much the advice and council of others before them, such as Turabian. It fails to build upon what has come before and go beyond them.
