

Cerritos College Library

In the Wilford Michael Library & Learning Resource Center

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS: THE TRIALS AND THEIR TIMES

Finding Information About a Trial

Within the guidelines of your assignment, select a trial that is of interest to you. Once you have selected one, use the general reference books available in the library to get background information on that trial. The reference books listed below are a good starting point for your research because they help you become better acquainted with your topic. In addition to using reference books, you may find information on your trial in books other than reference books, articles, online databases, and authoritative Internet resources.

Reference Books

About the Trials

Great American Trials

REF KF 220 .G74 2002

The U.S. Supreme Court

REF KF8742 .U18 2010

Landmark Supreme Court Cases: A Reference Guide

REF KF 4549 .L58 1999

West's Encyclopedia of American Law

REF KF 154 .W47 2005

The Supreme Court Compendium

REF KF 8742 .S914 2007

Historic U.S. Court Cases: An Encyclopedia

REF KF 352 .Z9 H57 2001

Landmark Decisions of the United States Supreme Court

REFDESK KF 4549 .L37 v.1, 3, 4, 5, 6

Leading Constitutional Decisions

REFDESK KF 4549 .C83 1987

Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court

REF KF 8742 .W567 2010

The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States

REF KF 8742 .A35 O93 2005

About the Climate of the Times

American Decades

REF E 169.12 .A42

Chronology of World History

REF D 11 .M39 1999

Day by Day, the Fifties

REF D 842.5 .M47 1979

Day by Day, the Nineties

REF D 856 .A93 2004

Day by Day, the Sixties

REF D 840 .P27 1983

Encyclopedia of the United States in the Nineteenth Century

REF E 169.1 .E626 2001

American Eras

REF E 169.1 .A471979 1998

Day by Day, the Eighties

REF D 848 .M45 1995

The Forties in America

REF E 169.12 .F676 2011

Day by Day, the Seventies

REF D 848 .L4 1988

Dictionary of American History

REF E 174 .D52 2003

20th Century Day by Day

REF D 422 .C53 2000

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Overviews of Political Issues

Social Issues in America : An Encyclopedia

HN57 .S624 2006

Encyclopedia of Civil Liberties in America

REF JC599 .U5 E53 2005

Federalism in America

REF JK 311 .F434 2006

American Conservatism: An Encyclopedia

REF JC 573.2 .U6 A43 2006

Getting More Information

Once you have done your background research you will be ready to conduct more comprehensive research using books, journals, magazines, newspapers, and the Internet.

Books

Use the [Library Catalog](#) located on the Cerritos College [Library Home Page](#) to find books on your topic that are available in the Cerritos College Library. You might consider searching under any of the subjects below.

Names of people, places, ships, etc. associated with the trials

Amistad
Anthony, Susan B.
Bakke, Allan Paul
Brown, Oliver
Gideon, Clarence Earl

Madison, James
Nixon, Richard
Plessy, Homer
Roe, Jane
Scott, Dred

Subject headings associated with the issues of the trials

Affirmative action programs
Affirmative action programs – Law and legislation
Civil Rights – Law and legislation
Civil Rights – United States – Cases
Constitutional law – United States – Cases
Discrimination in education - Law and legislation
Educational law and legislation – United States
Freedom of religion
Freedom of religion – Law and legislation
Freedom of speech
Freedom of speech – Law and legislation
Freedom of the press
Law – United States – Cases

Obscenity (Law)
Obscenity (Law) – United States – Cases
Race discrimination – Law and legislation
Religion and law – United States
Right to die
Right to die – Law and legislation
Slavery
Slavery – Law and legislation
Suffrage – United States
Trials – United States
Women's rights
Women's rights – United States – History

Online Journal and Reference Articles

Journals and magazines usually provide the most current information on a topic. Journal articles are more scholarly or professional while magazine articles tend to be shorter and more general. Newspaper articles, while not usually scholarly or professional, can give you the most current news and some additional facts on your topic.

To find articles on your topic, use one of the online databases listed below. These databases usually provide full-text articles on almost every topic. They are available via the [Library Home Page](#). Conduct

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your search in these databases by using subject headings and keywords similar to those you used to locate books.

EBSCOhost

Ethnic News Watch

Facts on File

Gale Databases

Gender Watch

In the First Person

NewsBank

Project Muse

Proquest Newspapers

See the ***Database Page*** or handout for a complete description of the Cerritos College Library online resources.

The Library also has print indexes that must be used to find older articles, generally anything published before 1985.

***Education Index
Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature***

***New York Times Index
Social Sciences Index***

Internet Sites

The Internet can be a valuable source for supplementing the information you have gathered from books and periodicals. It is important that you evaluate the information you get from the Internet to determine if it is reliable and useful to your research. A few Internet sites that may be useful are listed here.

Famous Trials

<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/ftrials.htm>

http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/ftrials_LNKS.html

Findlaw (U.S. Supreme Court Decisions 1893-present)

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html>

Select U.S. Supreme Court Decisions *by year*

Landmark Cases of the United States Supreme Court

<http://www.streetlaw.org/en/landmark.aspx>

Supreme Court of the United States

<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/>

Historic Supreme Court Cases

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/cases/name.htm>