

Cerritos College Library

In the Wilford Michael Library & Learning Resource Center

VIETNAM & THE VIETNAM WAR

Getting Background Information on Your Topic

Use the general reference books available in the library to get background information on **Vietnam & the Vietnam War**. Reference books such as the encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks listed below are a good starting point for your research because they help you become better acquainted with your topic.

Reference Books

Vietnam: A Visual Encyclopedia

REF DS557.7 .G88 2002

Making Sense of the Vietnam Wars: Local, National, and Transnational Perspectives

[electronic resource] 2008

Historical Atlas of the Vietnam War

REF DS557.7 .S93 1995

MIAs: A Reference Handbook

REF UB803 .L47 1998

Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War

REF DS557.7 .E53 1996

The Vietnam War, An Almanac

REF DS557.7 .V568 1985

The Vietnam Experience: A Concise Encyclopedia of American Literature, Songs, and Films

REF DS557.73 .H55 1998

Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War: A Political, Social, and Military History

REF DS557.7 .E53 1998

Getting More Information on Your Topic

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** available on the Cerritos College **Library Home Page** to find books available in the Cerritos College Library. Books can provide a broad overview of a topic or in-depth information.

You can search for books by author, title, subject, or keyword. Listed below are some *Library of Congress Subject Headings* used in the catalog for books relating to **Vietnam & the Vietnam War**. Use these terms to *Search by Subject*. Remember, this list is by no means conclusive.

Selected Subject Headings:

Vietnam War, 1961-1975

Vietnam War, 1961-1975—United States

Vietnam – Foreign relations

Vietnam – History – 1945-1975

Indochinese War, 1946-1954

Vietnam War, 1961-1975—Influence

Vietnam – politics and government

Vietnam. United States—Foreign relations

Vietnam - History

Vietnam

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You can also do a *Keyword* search to find books on your topic. If you find one book that is useful to your research, click on the *Subject* links to see others on the same subject.

The general call number for books relating to *Vietnam War* is **DS**.

Magazine, Journal, and Newspaper Articles

Journal 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. Like reference books, online reference sources can give you valuable background information, facts, and statistics. To find articles on Vietnam and the Vietnam War use one of the databases listed below.

- ❖ **Country Watch**
- ❖ **Issues & Controversies**
- ❖ **CQ Electronic Library**
- ❖ **EBSCOhost**
- ❖ **Gale Databases**

For remote access to the library databases, login to the **Library** using your Cerritos College ID number.

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

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

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.

The Vietnam Center and Archive

<http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/>

NARA—National Archives

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/>

The White House Commission on Remembrance

<http://www.remember.gov/HistoryOfSacrifice/VietnamWar/tabid/84/Default.aspx>

Vietnam Era – POW/MIA Database

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pow/powhome.html>