

Name: Lindsay Davis

SJSU LIBR 210  
Spring 2011

Reference and Information Services  
Holschuh Simmons

**Practice Questions #1: Ready Reference and Bibliographic Sources**

**#1-14 & #16 due Monday, March 7**

**#15 Primary annotations due Monday, February 14**

**#15 Secondary annotations due Monday, February 21**

**Submit in D2L (the annotations should go**

**on our class' GoogleDocs by the dates listed above)**

**12.5% of final grade**

**Purpose:** As reference librarians, we field a wide-range of questions on a daily basis. It is important for you to be familiar with a range of sources so that you can find accurate information efficiently and effectively.

**Instructions:** Please answer **thirteen of the fourteen** of the following questions. **In addition to the 13 of the 14, you must do #15 and #16.** Please write the word "skip" next to the number that you have chosen to skip. You are welcome to answer all 14 questions, but you will not get extra credit if you do.

While you can use any resources you have available for any of the questions, you should be able to answer these questions with the sources included on the class' wiki in GoogleDocs. No resource is off limits; therefore, please be honest and list all that you consult. However, please keep in mind that one of the goals for this course is to expose you to sources and strategies that you did not know before you took this class. Thus, your sources and search strategies should illustrate an effort to answer the questions in ways that are more sophisticated than those of an average user trying to search the Internet for answers. If you are using the same tools that you would have used before you registered for this course, you probably are not making an appropriate effort to push yourself. If, however, after you have pursued other avenues you find an answer to one of the questions through a simple Google search (or another free search engine), please first explain all the other avenues you tried, and then explain why the source you selected would be appropriately authoritative and reliable to recommend to a patron. Remember that when you are working as a reference librarian, you might lose your internet connection or you might lose electricity. Therefore, you will need the ability to find answers through multiple avenues.

**Hint:** Don't forget that SJSU has subscriptions to many electronic resources, such as Biography Resource Center, Literature Resource Center, American National Biography, and Proquest Historical Newspapers (NYTimes), all of which can and should be used for your questions.

Please type a response that includes the following components:

- a) The answer to the question. Please note that several of the questions in this set do not have one specific answer but instead are a request for help researching on a particular topic. Therefore, please provide a source that adequately and appropriately fulfills the patron's request, but also include an explanation for how the person should use the resource (for example, if you show the patron an entry in an encyclopedia, you might point out that there are cross-references that are in bold letters, that the list of references at the end of the entry will lead them to additional information, that the entry is organized with subheadings which will help them skim the article and find the sections that help them, etc.). (1 point)

**Comment [MHS1]:** To see how I managed each

of the questions, take a look at these screencasts:

1. Ethnic groups and education:  
<http://screencast.com/t/YIY1ZTcyZWQ>
2. Historic carbon dioxide levels:  
<http://screencast.com/t/ODFIYThhNj>
3. Numbers of Iowa farms:  
<http://screencast.com/t/OTkZGY2N> (and here is the link to the review of InfoPlease/Time Almanac that I mentioned in the screencast:  
[http://www.gale.cengage.com/reference/peter/200901/info\\_almanac.htm](http://www.gale.cengage.com/reference/peter/200901/info_almanac.htm))
4. Ugly Association:  
<http://screencast.com/t/LRJWnN19PR>
5. Barack Obama:  
<http://screencast.com/t/L5n6fqkPw>
6. Artichokes:  
<http://screencast.com/t/OWixMTgwO>
7. Grad programs in Japanese:  
<http://screencast.com/t/NzMS5YWRIQ>
8. Prescription drugs:  
<http://screencast.com/t/ZTE3NzE5MG>
9. Jane Addams:  
<http://screencast.com/t/sqSB0cYacI>
10. Denis Delaney:  
<http://screencast.com/t/OwUSmJWRyQ9E>
11. Jackie: <http://screencast.com/t/rNBDCmfv>
12. Presidents  
<http://screencast.com/t/OTRIMDU2YWE>
13. Poverty line:  
<http://screencast.com/t/kr2V8QGZJaL>
14. Belgium:  
<http://screencast.com/t/NTVkyWQ1Nz>

- b) An explanation of your search strategy, the sources consulted, whether they were helpful or not, as well as the source in which you located the answer or the source that you selected as the best one to recommend to the patron. Your search strategy and the sources you choose to consult are just as important as finding the right answer. Be sure you explain how you selected the source to recommend, what sources you consulted and why you decided against them, how you gained entry into a source (Index? Table of contents? Some other method?). (You do not need to include full citations, but at least include title, author, and year published for print sources, and at least include title and URL or database and search terms for an online source so I could replicate your search). **Note: listing sources with no explanation will not receive full credit. You must explain your process.** (2 points)
- c) A question with the answer that could be answered in any of the works you consulted for this particular question. Please create your own question, and do not borrow any from the questions in this practice set. Your question can either be for a particular fact or it can be to help a person research on a particular topic (the two types of questions included in this practice set). Our goal with these assignments is not just to answer the set of questions but rather to explore the myriad of sources available to us. Therefore, as you are browsing through sources, think about what kinds of questions might be answered by each source. (2 points)
- d) Approximate amount of time spent on the question (not for grading purposes, but rather for my information to gauge the length of the assignment) You can record either how long it took just to find the answer or you can include the time it took to write up your answers; you might just specify which option you chose.

### Practice questions #1

1. I am doing some research for my sociology of education course, and I need to know the percentage of Caucasian, African-American, Latino, and Asian people in the United States over the age of 25 who have at least a bachelor's degree. I need relatively recent data, probably from sometime in the last ten years. I've been poking around on Google for more than an hour, and I can't find anything that just gives me the numbers. Can you help me? (You need to list the percentages for each group in addition to explaining your process and providing a source.)

#### Resource, Search, and Answer:

I'd be more than happy to help. I think that the best source for you to look in would be found in the **Statistical Abstract of the United States**. It has statistics on all kinds of topics. Let me show you how to use it.

Do you see this list of tabs on the left of the screen? Let's try the education category. Oh, we have more specific choices related to history. Let's scroll down this list. Here's a tab for Higher Education: Degrees. I'll try that one. Okay, we have a few tables to choose from here. The third table, Table 296, also titled Degrees Earned by Level and Race /Ethnicity, looks promising. I'll open the PDF file. Okay, so it opens to Table 295, so I will scroll down. Here's 296.

Okay, the first column shows the level of degree and race/ethnicity. We'll skip the first set of data since it's for Associate's degrees. Next is Bachelor's degrees divided by race or ethnicity. The second column lists the numbers of people in a certain race/ethnic category who have B.A.s, and the third column provides the percentage of B.A.s each group holds. Percentages are available for 1990, 2000, or 2008. Would you like to use 2000 or 2008 data? 2008? Okay. In 2008, Caucasians held 71.8

**Comment [MHS2]:** To see how I managed each of the questions, take a look at these screencasts:

1. Ethnic groups and education: <http://screencast.com/t/YjY1ZTcy2WQ>
2. Historic carbon dioxide levels: <http://screencast.com/t/ODFIYThHnJ>
3. Numbers of Iowa farms: <http://screencast.com/t/OTHkZGY2N> (and here is the link to the review of InfoPlease/Time Almanac that I mentioned in the screencast: [http://www.gale.cengage.com/reference/peter/200901/info\\_almanac.htm](http://www.gale.cengage.com/reference/peter/200901/info_almanac.htm))
4. Ugly Association: <http://screencast.com/t/LRJWnN19PR>
5. Barack Obama: <http://screencast.com/t/L5n6fqkPw>
6. Artichokes: <http://screencast.com/t/OWixMTgwO>
7. Grad programs in Japanese: <http://screencast.com/t/NzMSYWRiO>
8. Prescription drugs: <http://screencast.com/t/ZTE3NzE5MG>
9. Jane Addams: <http://screencast.com/t/sqSB0cYacI>
10. Denis Delaney: <http://screencast.com/t/DwUSmjWRyQ9E>
11. Jackie: <http://screencast.com/t/rNBDCmfv>
12. Presidents <http://screencast.com/t/OTRiIMDU2YWE>
13. Poverty line: <http://screencast.com/t/kr2V8QGZJaI>
14. Belgium: <http://screencast.com/t/NTVkyWQ1Nz>

percent of all the Bachelor's degrees in the U.S., blacks held 9.8 percent of B.A.s, Latinos held 7.9 percent of B.A.s, and Asians held 7.0 percent of the B.A.s.

#### Rationale for Resource:

I selected this resource based on the information describing the resource on the class wiki. Since I had written the primary annotation for the *Historical Statistics of the United States*, I knew that between the two resources, the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* would be more likely to contain information from the 2000s. I didn't have any problem while conducting my search, and included the explanation of the resource and "conducted" the search within my answer to the patron. (This is the style in which I have done all my practice questions).

Comment [MHS3]: Good idea.

Comment [MHS4]: ☺

**Question:** I'm wondering how many elderly people there are now compared to that in 2000 and 1990.

**Answer:** According to the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, in 1990 there were 29.6 million Americans aged 65 and older. In 2000, there were 32.6 million people age 65 and older, and in 2009, there were 37.8 million.

Comment [MHS5]: Oh my! I didn't know that.

**Time:** 7 minutes to find answer.

2. I am interested in examining the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide historically. I'm wondering if there is data from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that I can compare to current data? I'm hoping I might be able to compare a year like 1900 to a year like 2000. It wouldn't have to be exactly these years, but I would like the data to be from around those two years. Can you help me? (In your answer you need to include the actual concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> for a year in the early 1900's and one for around 2000.)

#### Resource, Search, and Answer:

For data from the early 1900s, we will have to log into the *Historical Statistics of the United States* database. This database is a little more difficult to use, but we should find the information you need. On the right hand side of the screen, there are five general topics listed under the Table of Contents. To really get a feel for what is included in each area, we will need to click on them one at a time. When we click on part C, Economic Structure and Performance, under the Table of Contents, the page displays several chapters. Chapter Cf., Geography and the Environment, seems likely to try, even though it seems like it's in a weird place. When we click on the link to that chapter, the page displays PDF links to two essays and has links to tables in three areas: Land and Water, The Environment, and Weather. The Environment section has 14 different tables. Let's try that area first. There is a table called Emissions of Air Pollutants and Carbon Dioxide: 1940-2000. So we actually can find information for both the historic and more current levels in one place.

For the year 1940, the carbon dioxide emissions for the United States were 506,732 thousand metric tons. There is no information available for the year 2000, but the carbon dioxide emissions for 1999 were 1,499,846 thousand metric tons.

**Rationale for Resource:** I first looked in the *Historical Statistics of the United States* to find information on this environmental question, but I didn't remember coming across any kind of environmental topic while I was annotating this resource

for the class. After a few minutes of clicking on all five areas to find subtopics that were possible matches, I couldn't believe I found a chapter on environmental data under the Economic Structure and Performance section. I wouldn't have thought to look there right away. However, once I finally found where the environmental data was, it was easy to find the information within the chapter. It was an added bonus that the more current emission levels of CO2 were also available in the same table as the 1940 information. I thought I was going to have to look in two places—both the *Historical Statistics of the United States* and *Statistical Abstract of the United States*.

**Comment [MHS6]:** All good ideas, but the World Almanac actually goes back much, much farther—to the 1700s! -1/2

**Question:** I am studying religious history of the United States, and I'd like to find out how many people were members of a church in 1940. Can you help me?

**Answer:** The *Historical Statistics of the United States* has a chapter on Nonprofit, Voluntary, and Religious Entities within its Part B: Work and Welfare section. There are 9 tables related to religion. To answer your question, you'll need to see the first table, Table Bg320-333 - Religious organizations—membership, churches and synagogues, clergy, and attendance, by denomination and region: 1776–1998. In 1940, 64,501,594 people reported church membership.

**Time: 10 minutes to find the answer.**

3. I am doing some research on trends in the agriculture industry. How many farms were in the state of Iowa in 2001, 2003, and 2006? I don't necessarily need those exact years, but I would like data from a range of years in the 2000's so that I can see the trend. Where should I look? (In your answer you need to include the actual numbers for a span of years to show a trend.)

**Resource, Search, and Answer:**

No problem! The best place to look would be in the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. Let's check it out together. Okay, we have lots of topics to choose from here on the left side of the screen. I think agriculture is the best place where farms might be, so let's try that. We also options for specific topics in this pop-out window. There's a tab for Farms and Farmland. Clicking on that brings up some tables. The third table, Table 820, lists Farms-Number and Acreage by State. The PDF file opens to Table 819, so let's scroll down. Table 820 has data for the year 2000 and 2009. Let's check out Iowa's figures. 94 and 93. That doesn't seem right. Oh, I see. Farms are counted by 1000s. See the second column? Farms (1000)? In 2000, Iowa had 94,000 farms, and in 2009, Iowa had 93,000 farms.

**Comment [MHS7]:** Yay! So smart.

**Rationale for Resource:**

I selected this resource based on the information describing the resource on the class wiki. Since I had written the primary annotation for the *Historical Statistics of the United States*, I knew that between the two resources, the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* would be more likely to contain information from the 2000s. I didn't have any problem while conducting my search, and included the explanation of the resource and "conducted" the search within my answer to the patron.

**Question:** Where would I find information about the top visited American cities by overseas visitors in 2009?

**Answer:** The *Statistical Abstract of the United States* has information on this. The top five U.S. cities visited by overseas visitors in 2009 were New York City, NY;

Miami, FL; Los Angeles, CA; Orlando, FL; and San Francisco, CA. There are more cities listed, too.

**Time:** 8 minutes to find answer.

4. I have come to embrace my identity as an ugly person, and I am wondering if there is an association for unattractive people like me. If so, who is responsible for creating the group? What is their purpose? (In your answer you need to include the association's name, the founder, contact info, and a brief explanation of its purpose.)

**Resource, Search, and Answer:**

There is actually a reference source on all kinds of associations. The online version is called **Associations Unlimited, and the print version is called the Encyclopedia of Associations**. Our library has the online version. Let's look to see if there are any groups for those that think they're unattractive. Okay, we have some ways we can go about searching. Since we don't have a specific name, I will try to look by the Subject/Any Word Search. Let's use the Free Text since we don't know the exact term Associations Unlimited will include. I will try searching ugly with the Boolean operator OR unattractive as search terms, so the search will look for both words. Okay, it shows that we have three options. Option 3, Uglies Unlimited, seems to sound like what you're looking for. It says it's a national organization in the U.S. Let's choose this one to see what kind of information is available. Okay, the founder of Uglies Unlimited, or U.U., is Danny McCoy. He established the group in 1973. The purpose of the group is to fight against discrimination based on a person's appearance, encourage members to "[find] a new self image," seeks to give exposure to unattractive people in the media, and they also hold an Ugly Stick competition every year.

**Rationale for Resource:**

I selected this resource to conduct my search for the patron's need based on the description of *Associations Unlimited* in the class wiki. This was the only source on the list that could answer the patron's question. I didn't have to look anywhere else.

**Question:** I am wondering if there is a national caregiver group that I could refer my friend to. She's really been stressed caring for her elderly mom.

**Answer:** *Associations Unlimited* has information available for the National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC). Headquarters are in Maryland. The primary contact is Gail Gibson Hunt, the president and CEO. The email address is [info@caregiving.org](mailto:info@caregiving.org), and the website address is <http://www.caregiving.org>. The mailing address is 4720 Montgomery Ln., 5th Fl, Bethesda, MD 20814.

**Time:** 5 minutes to find answer.

5. I am doing research on Barack Obama's early life in politics, and I'd like to find the first article the *New York Times* ran about Barack Obama. What was the title of the article, and when was it written? (You need to include the actual headline and date of publication.)

**Resource, Search, and Answer:**

Hello. Your best bet to find the first article written about Obama in the *New York Times* would be to search **Proquest Historical Newspapers: New York Times**. This database has articles from 1851 to 2007. Let me show you how to use it. Okay, now that's we're logged in, I am going to choose advanced search rather than the basic search, so we can search in specific parts of articles. If we just put in Barack Obama in the basic search, we might not find what we're looking for. In the advanced search, we can search for Barack Obama in a number of ways. The drop down menu that says citation and document text actually has other options. Let's look at those. For example, here's document title. I wouldn't recommend using that because we don't know if the title of the article you are looking for would include his name. Let's search by citation and document text, so his name will be searched within an article itself and in the citations of all articles. As far as the other search options, since we are looking for the earliest article on Obama, it doesn't matter that we indicate a specific date. Under the more search options, there is a way to sort the results we get from the earliest date to most recent. It's already selected for you as the default. Let's try running the search to see what we find.

The first result is the earliest article about Barack Obama that was published in the *New York Times*. The article, "First Black President Elected to Head Harvard's Law Review" was published on February 6, 1990.

**Rationale for Resource:**

Because the patron was looking for the first *New York Times*' article that mentions Barack Obama early in his career, I knew that the best resource would be the *Proquest Historical Newspapers: New York Times* database. It is the only resource on the class wiki that caters specifically to articles published by the *New York Times* between 1851 and 2007. The resource also fit the timeframe since Obama's early political career had to have been long before 2007.

**Question:** I'm studying the front of page of newspapers across the country dated from September 12, 2001. I'd like to find the front page story from the *New York Times*.

**Answer:** The best source to find the front page story of the *New York Times* from September 12, 2001 is *Proquest Historical Newspapers: New York Times* database. When you first log in, the default is set to basic search. Choose the advanced search link on the right-hand side of the screen. Under the limit to heading, choose "on this day" for the date range, choosing September 12, 2001. I also recommend searching by document type. Clear all the checked selections using the clear all link. The check front\_page, front-page, front page article, and historical newspaper. With this search, there are four relevant articles. However, some of the articles have blocked images due to copyright and will say to find the article on microfilm or to see the full page.

Comment [MHS8]: Good to note.

1. Kleinfield, N.R. (2001, September 12). A creeping horror. *New York Times*, pp. A1, A7.
2. Apple R.W., Jr. (2001, September 12). Awaiting the aftershocks. *New York Times*, pp. A1, A24.
3. Schmemann, S. (2001, September 12). President vows to exact punishment for 'evil.' *New York Times*, pp. A1, A14.

4. Bumiller, E. (2001, September 12). A somber Bush says terrorism cannot prevail. *New York Times*, pp. A1, A4.

**Time:** 6 minutes to find answer.

6. I am going to a wedding with my boyfriend and I'll be meeting his family for the first time. His family is very prim and proper. I saw on the menu for the dinner that they will be serving artichokes. I am not sure I've even seen an artichoke before, and I surely don't know how to eat one. How should I eat it without embarrassing myself? I really like him and I don't want him to break up with me. Maybe I'll just break up with him to save myself the embarrassment. (You need to include a BRIEF explanation of how to eat an artichoke politely.)

**Resource, Search, and Answer:**

There's a book for you. *Emily Post's Etiquette* has explanations for how to do all kinds of things the correct way, like folding napkins and which fork to use during a fancy dinner. Let's look in the index of the book and see if we can find the entry on artichokes. "Artichokes—eating etiquette" is listed as being on page 391. It says that you eat artichokes with your fingers. You pull off a leaf at a time and dip the base of each leaf into the butter or sauce that is provided for you. You put each leaf between your front teeth and pull forward. There will be a plate where you can put discarded leaves or you can put the remains on the edge of your plate. You use your fingers until the leaves are too small. Then you use a knife to cut off the small leaves and the choke until you get to the artichoke heart. You cut the heart in pieces and then use a fork to dip it in the butter or sauce.

Comment [MHS9]: Yum!

**Rationale for Resource:**

I chose to look in this resource first because it is the only resource on the class wiki that deals with all things "polite" and "proper."

**Question:** I'm getting married, and I need to find a book that can help me figure out how to handle wedding invitations. I've seen lots of examples online, but I don't want to do something that isn't considered appropriate.

**Answer:** *Emily Post's Etiquette* has a section on weddings (part 7) that includes several chapters on different wedding-related topics. Chapter Thirty-Six is called "Wedding Invitations and Announcements." It starts on page 620. The chapter has information on when they should be mailed and how to handle the style of the wording, depending on whether you want to use a traditional or informal style. The chapter also shows examples.

**Time:** 5 minutes

7. I'd like to find out which schools in California offer a Ph.D. in Japanese. Can you help me? (You need to include the names of the schools.)

**Skip** (I couldn't believe it—my local public library only had 5 Peterson's guides, and none were for graduate schools.)

Comment [MHS10]: Really!

8. I am on four different prescriptions, and I put all of my pills in my pill box so that I know which ones I am supposed to take each day and at each meal. This morning I

was carrying the pill box and I tripped on my cat, so all the pills scattered all over the kitchen floor. I picked them all up before my cat ate them, but now I can't remember which pills are which ones. I can't afford to throw them all away, and so I am wondering if there is a source that shows what each pill looks like. Can you help me? (You need to list the title of a source that shows images of a wide range of prescription medicines as well as how to use the source.)

**Resource, Search, and Answer:**

I can definitely help you. The 2007 *Physicians' Desk Reference* actually has a guide that helps people figure out what certain pills are. The guide is called an Imprint Identification Guide. It lists pills by the indented or printed numbers or words on the pills themselves and tells what the medication is called, the particular dosage (listed as strength), its color, form, shape, and the manufacturer of the medication. The guide is in alphabetical order by imprint. What you would do is look at the imprinted numbers or letters on your pills, look them up in the guide, and then see what the names are, and then put your pills in the bottle where they belong. For example, Effexor XR comes in two dosages. The 37.5 mg Effexor XR capsule is imprinted with "W Effexor XR 37.5." When you look up "W Effexor XR 37.5" in this guide, the medication name is listed as Effexor XR, the strength is 37.5 milligrams, the color is grey and peach, the form of the medication is in an extended release capsule, and the manufacturer is Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

**Rationale for Resource:**

In the class wiki, there were two resources that catered to medical topics. After reading the descriptions of both the *Physicians' Desk Reference* and *American Medical Association Family Medical Guide*, the *PDR* was the only resource that mentioned a guide for identifying prescriptions.

**Question:** I'm looking for information on what medications can interfere with Aleve caplets.

**Answer:** There's a book for that. The *Physician's Desk Reference's* first section is an Interactions Index divided alphabetically by brand. You use it by looking up the brand name Aleve and locate Aleve caplets (naproxen sodium). Under the Aleve caplets heading, there will be a list of generic medications that interfere with Aleve. Under most of the generic name, there is a list of particular name brand products. (\*There is also a generic availability guide: "If you've ever had trouble remembering whether there's a generic alternative for a particular brand, you're sure to appreciate this handy guide.")

**Time:** 7 minutes.

9. I need to do a brief presentation about Jane Addams. I have looked in the catalog, and I have found several books about her, but since the presentation is short, I am wondering if you might have a shorter biography that includes the important points of her life. I need to talk about the Hull House and maybe something about her efforts for peace and her Nobel Prize. Do you have a source that gives a succinct biography? My grouchy professor said that we are not supposed to use Wikipedia. Drat! (You don't need to include info about Jane Addams, but you do need to name one or more sources that you could recommend to this person that has the info he or she is seeking.



**Resource, Search, and Answer:**

Hi. No problem. The best place to find short biographies on national figures would be in the **American National Biography** database our library subscribes to. Wow, we have a lot of ways we could search for Jane Addams. Let's first try searching for her under her name, Jane Addams, without any other terms or search limits. Let's also uncheck searching in bibliographies, so we just get articles. Hmm, we have over 1,000 matches. Let's try something else. We could search for her name as Addams, Jane. This database may search for names by last name first, comma, then first name. That's much better. Here is one article that indicates she is a social reformer, Nobel Prize winner, and peace activist. Let's click on it.

Comment [MHS11]: Excellent.

This looks good for a short biography on Jane Addams. This article, by Victoria Bissel Brown, includes information about Hull House, Addams' peace efforts, and Nobel Prize. There's even a bibliography that lists works she wrote and other works about her life.

**Rationale for Resource:**

When I was approaching this question, I debated whether I should start looking in the Gale Biography in Context database or the American National Biography database. Having studied a little about Jane Addams during my K-12 education, I knew that she was a social activist who played a part in shaping our nation. After reviewing the descriptions of both these resources in the class wiki, the American National Biography seemed like the best fit. According to the wiki, American National Biography "contains about 18700 notable American men and women from all eras of American history who are no longer alive and whose lives have shaped the nation" (Vora, 2011).

Comment [MHS12]: Both good ideas.

**Question:** I need to find a biography on Rosa Parks for a class project. More than one source would be helpful, too. Where do you suggest I look?

**Answer:** Since Rosa Parks is an American figure, the best place to search would be the *American National Biography* database. When you log in, you will see a variety of search options. The easiest is to simply enter her name. You will need to use her last name first, put a comma, and then put in her first name: Parks, Rosa. Using this search will provide you with the following result:

Parks, Rosa (4 Feb. 1913-24 Oct. 2005), Civil Rights Activists, 1300 words

At the end of the article is a bibliography which lists of other helpful resources you could consult.

**Time:** 5 minutes to find answer.

10. I stumbled upon this fabulous novel called *Cat in Gloves* by someone named Denis Delaney. I haven't been able to find anything else that he has written, and I am dying to learn more about this author. Can you find some information about him? I'd like to see a list of the things he has written and find out about his personal life. (You don't need to recap his life, but you should find a source that provides all of the info that the patron needs.)

**Resource, Search, and Answer:**

There's a perfect source I can help you look through to find information on authors. Our library subscribes to the **Literature Resource Center** database. It has biographies of authors and information about their works. Notice that the default search is the advanced search. The first search box has a drop down menu, so we can choose how exactly we want to search for Denis Delaney. Instead of using keyword (ke), the best option would be to search by author. Keyword searching might bring up too many results in different categories. Okay, now that I've changed the search to search by author name, let's fill in the second box with the author's name, Denis Delaney. Let's also uncheck some of the options for content types. It may be better to search just by biographies and primary sources & literary works. Let's also select English as the language.

Hmm, we didn't get any results this way, so let's try the name in reverse: Delaney, Denis. Okay, with this search we get two matching results. The tabs at the top of the screen group matches by content type. It's strange that there is a hit for Literature Criticism since we unchecked that option. The tab next to Literature Criticism, Biographies, shows a 1, so let's try clicking on that result. The result is called Peter M. Green. I think we should click on this just in case. Okay, the article shows that Peter M. Green is also known as Denis Delaney. That may be why it was difficult to search for this author! He has so many names he goes by! This short biography has some personal information, career information, and it also has a list of his writings.

Comment [MHS13]: Excellent

#### Rationale for Resource:

In college I studied history and minored in English, and I had become familiar with the *Contemporary Authors* resource within the *Literature Resource Center* database as a student. I knew this was probably the go-to resource for this type of question, but when I looked in the class wiki, there were a few resources related to literature and authors. However, the description of the *Literature Resource Center* stipulated that the database "offer[s] information about authors, their bodies of work, interviews and critical analysis regarding a particular author, title, or subject" (Sedell, 2011).

Comment [MHS14]: Yay!

**Question:** I need to find a list of Toni Morrison's major works. Can you help me?

**Answer:** The Literature Resource Center database has a few biographical essays about Toni Morrison. The essay, "Toni Morrison," from *Contemporary Literary Criticism Select* (complete citation below) lists the following titles as her major works: *The Bluest Eyes*, *Sula*, *The Black Book*, *Song of Solomon*, *Tar Baby*, *Dreaming Emmett*, *Beloved*, *Jazz*, *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*, *Conversations with Toni Morrison*, and *Paradise*.

Toni Morrison. *Contemporary Literary Criticism Select*. Detroit: Gale, 2008. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 2 Mar. 2011.

**Time:** 8 minutes to find the answer.

11. I am thinking of writing a children's book about in baseball, and I believe that there was a teenage girl who played for a minor league team in the early 1930's who struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees. I'd like to find the original newspaper articles about this young woman. Can you help me find out her

name and some specifics of this situation? I'd really like the actual newspaper articles and dates of publication about this particular game. (You need to list her name, a headline, and a date of publication.)

#### **Resource, Search, and Answer:**

We have the perfect resource here at the library. I can show you how to look through **Proquest Historical Newspapers: New York Times** database. The database has articles that were published in the *New York Times* between 1851 and 2007. The default search is basic, so let's use the advanced search to get more refined results. To get actual articles about this girl, we should run a search by citation and document text. Document text is another way to say the search will look in the entire text of articles. In this first box, let's type in girl. In the second box, next to where it says AND, let's type in New York Yankees. This will look for articles that have both these terms. Also, for the date, let's place dates from 01/01/1930 to 12/31/1939 to make sure we get all the articles from the 1930s.

We get 95 articles, which is quite a few to go through, so let's look at the first 10 or so. The fifth result listed looks promising, "GIRL PITCHER FANS RUTH AND CEHRIG [sic]; Hurls Only Six Balls to Strike Out the Yankee Aces in Chattanooga Game. BABA ACTS HIS CHAGRIN Swings Lustily Twice, Insists Umpire Inspect the Sphere, and Is Called Out. WALK GIVEN TO LAZZERI Miss Mitchell Then Retires, Whereupon New York Pounds Out 14-4 Victory. Crowd Applauds Girl Athlete. Yankees Start Their Drive." Let's look at the PDF of the article. Aha, the first paragraph says that Jackie Mitchell, "baseball's first girl pitcher, struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig in the first inning today." This article, "Girl Pitcher Fans Ruth and Gehrig," by William E. Brandt was published on April 3, 1931.

#### **Rationale for Resource:**

In answering the reference question about Barack Obama and the first New York Times article in which he was featured, I knew that the go-to resource to find what the patron was looking for would be in the *Proquest Historical Newspapers: New York Times* database, which has articles dating back to 1851. I had to try a few different search terms, but in the search described above, I used the terminology that yielded the "right answer."

Comment [MHS15]: 😊

**Question:** I'm curious as to where I could find a national-level newspaper from the day I was born? I just want to know what was going on in the world at that time. I was born on April 15, 1985.

**Answer:** The *Proquest Historical Newspapers: New York Times* database would be a good place to start. This database has newspapers between 1851 and 2007! When you first log in, the default is set to basic search. Choose the advanced search link on the right-hand side of the screen. Under the limit to heading, choose "on this day" for the date range, choosing April 15, 1985. You can also select the types of documents you are interested in seeing, whether you want comics, obituaries, editorials, front page articles, etc. Let me show you what would pop up if we selected to look for only front page type articles. In the document type limit, we will uncheck all the boxes using the clear all command. Then, we'll check front\_page, front-page, front page article, and historical newspaper. There are 11 results for these type of articles.

**Time:** 10 minutes to find the answer.

- 12.** I heard Terry Gross interview the historian Garry Wills on NPR's Fresh Air recently. They talked about his book *Bomb Power: The Modern Presidency and the National Security State*, and it got me really interested in the history of the atomic bomb. I'd like to read the first public statement of any sort delivered by a US president that includes any mention of the atomic bomb. Can you help me find the president, the date, and the actual text of the statement? (You need to list the president's name and the date as well as a source that will give the full text of the statement.)

**Resource, Search, and Answer:**

I can walk you through searching the American Presidency Project website hosted by UC Santa Barbara. This resource includes addresses given by the presidents. When we first go to the website, scroll all the way down until you get to the search boxes. Option 1 lets us search by keywords as well as document types. Because the atomic bomb was used on Japan in 1945, let's try limiting our results from January 1, 1930 to December 31, 1945. In the search box itself, I recommend we try "atomic bomb" in quotation marks. Under document type, let's try searching by Oral: Address-major to the Nation. Okay, that didn't yield any results. Let's try not putting a limit by document type. That didn't work either.

Let's try something else. Let's go back to the homepage. Okay, now I will click on the Documents button (the yellow one) at the top of the screen. To the left is a documents archive. I think we should try searching under Public Papers. When we click here, we read, "The Public Papers of the Presidents contain most of the President's public messages, statements, speeches, and news conference remarks." When we scroll down, there is a search box on the left. Let's enter in atomic and use the AND Boolean for bomb. Let's limit the years to 1940 instead of 1930 through 1945. We get 16 results. The earliest result is dated from August 6, 1945. The address was given by President Harry S. Truman. The title of the statement is 93-Statement by the President Announcing the Use of the A-bomb at Hiroshima. When you click on the link to this statement, a window opens up with the text of the statement.

**Comment [MHS16]:** All good ideas

**Rationale for Resource:** Although there were two resources related to the presidency, I knew that the *American Presidency Project* was the better choice to find the answer to this question than the *Encyclopedia of the American Presidency* because the Project includes public statements made by the presidents.

**Question:** Where I can I find audio or video files of President Franklin D. Roosevelt?

**Answer:** UC Santa Barbara actually has a website called the American Presidency Project that has audio and video files of certain presidents. When you first go to the American Presidency Project website, there will be some colored buttons on the top of the screen. Click on the gray Media button. The window shows links to audio/video material for presidents Hoover, F. Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, G.H.W Bush, Clinton, and G.W. Bush. Click on any of these presidents' names to find audio material or videos.

**Time:** 10 minutes to find answer.

- 13.** I am studying poverty in my sociology class, and I am trying to find out what the "poverty line" was in 1960 and then again in 1990 for a family of four. What should

I do to find this information? (You need to include the actual figures for both 1960 and 1990.)

**Resource, Search, and Answer:**

The *Historical Statistics of the United States* database here at the library has statistics from the past on all kinds of topics related to the United States. The database is not the easiest to use, so let me show you how to search for the answer to your question. Okay, you see that when you first log in, there is a Table of Contents to the left. Part B under the Table of Contents is titled Work and Welfare. Let's click on the link to see what's included in this section. Okay, first there are two essays and a list of tables by topic. There are 9 tables related to Poverty Lines. Let's click on the link to these tables. The first second table, Weighted Average Official Poverty Thresholds and selected alternative party lines, by family size: 1947-1999, looks promising. Let's click on the PDF file to open it. Okay, the second column shows the years, and the row above the blue row shows the section where family size information is found. There is a column for four persons. First, look for the date 1960 on the very left, and then find where it intersects with the information for a family of four persons. In 1960, the poverty line for a family of four was \$3,022. In 1990, the poverty line for a family of four was \$17,029.

**Comment [MHS17]:** Hmm. It seems that maybe you looked at the wrong column? I found \$13,000.  
-1/2

**Rationale for Resource:**

Since I annotated this resource, I knew there was historic information for the topic of poverty. After tackling question two, I also knew that I probably only needed to go here. For the second question, I initially thought I might have to also look in the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*.

**Question:** I'm looking for statistics on crime during the 1960s. Where do I look?

**Answer:** The *Historical Statistics of the United States* database actually has statistics on crime. When you first log into the database, click on Part E: Governance and International Relations. There will several chapters to choose from. Click on Chapter EC: Crime, Law Enforcement, and Justice. There are 58 different tables related to this topic. There are 10 tables specifically on Crimes and Arrests. Browse through them to find the specific information you are looking for.

**Time:** 5 minutes

14. I have a friend who emailed me and told me she is moving to Belgium, and she wants me to visit. I am so excited to go visit her in Europe! I love Belgian waffles and chocolate! I already have my passport, some comfortable white athletic shoes for walking, a big fanny pack, and lots of batteries and 35mm film for my camera. But I'm confused, because she told me I should fly into Milwaukee and then take a bus to Belgium. What is she talking about? Where is she moving? (You need to state where Belgium actually is.)

**Resource, Search, and Answer:**

Hi, yes, I can understand your confusion. There is a Belgium in Europe, but I wonder if there is a town with the same name here in the U.S. Your friend mentioned taking a plan to Milwaukee. I know that Milwaukee is Wisconsin. We can try to find out if there's another Belgium through the U.S. Census Bureau website. The Bureau

website has the 2010 Census U.S. Gazetteer files "for places, counties, county subdivisions, and census tracts" available for download at:  
<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/gazetteer/gazette.html>

After going to this web address, the first thing we do is click on the link here at the top to download the 2010 Census U.S. Gazetteer files. Okay, the new window shows that we can download certain files. I think the places file will be the best place to look for Belgium. Before we click on that, let's take a look at the record layout link for places. It should tell us how to navigate the file. Let's click on it. Okay, it shows that the first column gives us the U.S. Postal Service state abbreviations and that the fourth column gives us the name of the place. Let's use the back arrow to go back to the actual file. Now I'm going to click on the places link.

Now, if we didn't think we knew the state, this would be hard to use because there is not a way to enter a search within this big list for a specific city name. Let's scroll down so that WI for Wisconsin shows in the first column. Okay, here are the Wisconsin cities. Let's look for the Bs in the fourth column. Here's Belgium. It's listed as Belgium village. I think your friend is moving to Belgium, Wisconsin.

**Question:** Hi, I was wondering how many counties are in California?

**Answer:** Let's try looking at the 2010 U.S. Census Gazetteer online for that answer. First, we go to <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/gazetteer/gazette.html>. Then, we click on the link "2010 Census U.S. Gazetteer files." This will take us to the files available for download. From the list, choose the Counties file to download. This file lists counties by state. The very right hand column shows the postal abbreviations for state. Scroll down until you get to CA for California. Once you get to CA, count all the names of the counties that appear in the fourth column (or all the CA's that appear in the first column for a faster count). There are 58 counties in California.

**Rationale for Resource:**

I spent some time looking for an alternative to Omni Gazetteer of the U.S. After viewing my local library OPAC, I discovered that the library does have *The Cambridge Gazetteer of the United States and Canada: A Dictionary of Place* edited by Archie Hobson and published by Cambridge University Press available in the reference section. I held off going to the local library and opted to find an online resource. (When I finally did go to the public library to check out the Cambridge Gazetteer, I discovered that while the resource was helpful when looking up bigger cities, etc., it did not include an entry for a Belgium in Wisconsin.) When I typed in Gazetteer of the U.S. in Google, the "U.S. Gazetteer-Census Bureau Home Page" was my first result. This resource isn't the most user-friendly, but I finally did find the answer. I wouldn't recommend this resource to patrons as the number one source to go to, but I didn't have many alternatives on hand. For this type of question, I think many patrons would try to "Google it." (After counting all the counties in California while creating my question that this resource could answer, I found that Wikipedia also gave the right answer. However, I wouldn't go off of what Wikipedia listed for a patron because "you never know" if it truly is right or not.

Comment [MHS18]: ☺

**Time:** 10 minutes to find the answer.

---

15. Please go to our Practice questions #1 main wiki page in our class' GoogleDocs site, and select two reference works to annotate. For one of the two, you will be the primary author, and for the other one, you will be the secondary. **Please complete your primary annotation by 2/14 and the secondary annotation by 2/21.**

As **primary** author (worth 10 points), your role is to give a brief annotation about the work, including the following:

- a) Full citation
- b) Explanation of the purpose and content
- c) Explanation of unique features
- d) Explanation of the organization of the text (Alphabetical? Thematic? Dependent on the index? Dependent on a table of contents? Etc.)
- e) One question (and answer) that could be answered by using this book (please don't borrow one of my questions from the practice questions assignment)

As **secondary** author (worth 5 points), your role is to add to the primary author's annotation. Add any additional information that you have gathered for letters a-d above (if the primary author has been thorough, you may not need to add much, if anything), and add your question (letter e) that could be answered with this source. When you select a source, please be sure you have access to the source at your local library! Please try to make these annotations interesting, perhaps by including humor or by thinking of a quirky question. We want our annotations to be helpful to everyone in the class, but we also want them to be enjoyable to read!

#### Primary Annotation

***Historical Statistics of the United States*** (online through King Library)

**Carter, S.B., Gartner, S.S., Haines, M.R., Olmstead, A.L., Sutch, R., & Wright, G. (Eds.). (2011). *Historical statistics of the United States: Millennial edition online*. Cambridge University Press.**

Note: The database is not listed under the History section of the King Library's list of databases. To find this database, look for it by title rather than by subject area. Here is the link to the databases that begin with the letter H for SJSU students:

<http://library.calstate.edu/sanjose/databases/alphabetical#H>

Simply log in with student information: name, SJSU I.D., and library pin.

I graduated with a degree in history in 2008, and I had never been introduced to either the print or online version of the *Historical Statistics of the United States*. I always thought that students were forced to search for numbers by brute force—trying to find books or articles on the topic in hopes that there were statistics. Who knew that there was a one-stop place where students and scholars could look up statistics from the past? Lots of misery could be prevented by referring students to this resource.

The *Historical Statistics of the United States* Millennial Edition Online database is described by the Dr. Martin Luther King Library as a resource that

[p]resents statistical & quantitative history of the United States from the earliest times to the present. Contains more than 37,000 annual time series of historical

Comment [MHS19]: ☺

Comment [MHS20]: ☺ I love your intro here.

information covering virtually every quantifiable dimension of American history: population, work and welfare, economic structure and performance, governance, and international relations.

Before the Millennial edition was published, the last time the *Historical Statistics of the United States* had been updated was in 1975. Before the current update, there were only two volumes. With revisions and new topics added by more than 80 scholars, the current Millennial Edition Online is comprised of five sections: population, work and welfare, economic structure and performance, economic sectors, and governance and international relations. There are also three appendixes—Weights, Measures, and Monetary Values; States and Census Regions; and Origin of *Historical Statistics of the United States*. The online version lists each of the five sections and appendixes (users need to click on the appendixes link to see the links to the individual appendixes) in a table of contents located on the left side of the screen when users log in. According to the editors' preface,

...the chapters in the new edition are preceded by essays [the online version allows the user to open the essays as PDFs] that introduce the quantitative history of their subject, provide a guide to the sources, and offer expert advice on the reliability of the data and the limits that might be placed on their interpretation. (Preface)

To give a specific example of how the content is organized, when the Population section is opened from the table of contents, the top of the screen provides three PDF links to introductory essays to the Population section. Directly below these links is a brief acknowledgements section written by the authors of the essays. Below this, there are links to seven chapters: Population Characteristics, Vital Statistics, Internal Migration, International Migration, Family and Household Composition, Cohorts, and American Indians. Next to the chapter titles, a count of the number of tables included is listed. The chapter Population Characteristics, for example, indicates that there are 92 tables. Within each chapter there is also a PDF link to an essay and links to the tables which are divided by a specific topic. Using the Population Characteristics chapter within the Population section again as an example, the 92 tables are divided by seven topics. The first topic, Area and Population, has seven tables; the second topic, Sex, Age, Race, and Marital Status, has 10 tables, and so on.

While it may seem an unwieldy structure, going from section to chapters to essays and tables, the online edition allows users to keyword search within the entire resource or within a part or chapter. There is also a search tab (the second tab) on the top left hand corner when users first log in. Users can also use the index, which has "see also" terms linked. The index is also located on the top left hand corner (the third tab) when users log in. The online edition also shares advice on how to use the resource. There is a How to use Historical Statistics section in the middle of the page as soon as users log in that provides links to How to Find Data, Table Overview, Downloading Tables, Creating a Custom Table, Graphing Tables, and Favorites features (save tables, save searches). The *Historical Statistics of the United States*



Millenial Edition Online may not be the most user friendly of resources, but it is possible to find information with a little patience and maybe even guidance from someone more familiar with it.

Comment [MHS21]: So smart.

**Question:** I'm taking a class on U.S. slavery, and I need to find out how many slaves there were in 1850. Where would I possibly find that answer?

**Answer:** The *Historical Statistics of the United States* has statistics on populations. The Population section has a chapter on Population Characteristics that has two tables on slaves, although one of these tables lists the population of free blacks. In 1850, there were 1,602,534 slaves in the United States.

### Secondary Annotation

#### *The American Presidency Project*

I was very impressed while exploring UC Santa Barbara's American Presidency Project website. Greg has done a great job outlining the Project's features and content.

An extra feature I thought was neat is "The Ten Most Viewed Documents" (as of the beginning of the year) on the bottom left corner of the homepage. Although this is probably not relevant to someone searching for something specific, it can lead users to discover new topics or documents they would otherwise not search for or know about. It also adds a more "fun" element since, on first sight, the homepage seems flooded with words.

Comment [MHS22]: I love this source!

Another fun element is the "Today in History" feature located to the right and slightly above the "The Ten Most Viewed Documents" heading. The "Today in History" features documents written by presidents. I am assuming this based on today's feature for February 21<sup>st</sup>, a letter written by Andrew Johnson to Edwin M. Stanton, removing Stanton as Secretary of War. The letter is dated February 21, 1868. I think this feature would be interesting to share with history teachers as a way to draw students in to history.

As I was exploring the six different areas of the website (home, data, documents, elections, media, and links), the buttons of which are located at the top of the homepage underneath the banner of pictures featuring different presidents, I discovered that the links section are links to all the Presidential Libraries. I have actually been to the William J. Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, and it was impressive! It's great the UC Santa Barbara added these to its site.

The media section is an audio/video archive divided by Presidents Hoover through George W. Bush. For example, when you click on Hoover, there are three radio addresses users can listen to. There is also a link to the written transcript that opens in a new window. Users can listen to and read the address at the same time if desired! Amazing!

The elections section features the election maps from 2008 all the way back to 1789! For example, when a user clicks on the 1984 map (I was born in 1985), the window opens to a larger map with statistics on the bottom, including total number of

electoral votes and percentage of electoral votes for each candidate and the total number and percentage of popular votes for each candidate. Below that, users can find the total votes per state, total votes and percentage of total votes for each candidate by state, and electoral vote numbers by state. Users can also jump to different election years by clicking on any of the years provided at the bottom of the screen.

The data section is an archive featuring “numbers” information. Here users can explore topics like Relations with Congress, Popularity, Public Appearances, Growth of the Executive Branch, Presidential Selection, State of the Union and Inaugural Address Charts, and Presidential [Disability](#).

Comment [MHS23]: Such great info!

**Question:** I need help looking for the approval ratings of George W. Bush, and I can't seem to find any information.

**Answer:** The American Presidency Project is the perfect resource. There is a section devoted to approval ratings. At the top of the homepage, click on the data section, scroll down to the section called Popularity. Within this section, there are links to approval ratings from various points in time, including initial ratings, after the first 100 days, and final job approval ratings. [Initial rating data is available for Eisenhower through Obama, first 100 day data is available for Eisenhower through Obama, and final ratings include data for Truman through G.W. Bush except for FDR and Kennedy who died in office. The data is compiled from the Gallup Poll.] We can look at the approval ratings in all of these categories. George W. Bush's initial approval rating was 57 percent, 62 percent 100 days after inauguration, and 34 percent at the end of his final term.

16. Select an interesting source that you discovered while you worked on your questions. Then, go to the discoveries page for practice questions #1 in our GoogleDocs site, and list the bibliographic information (include author, title, year published, and publisher—form doesn't matter), write a VERY brief annotation (no more than a sentence or two—this is considerably shorter than your previous annotation), and your question with the answer. If someone else has already included your source, just list your question under theirs. Please be sure to include your name. This annotation needs to be done by March 7th. (5 points)

**Hobson, A. (Ed.). (1995). *The Cambridge gazetteer of the United States and Canada: A dictionary of places*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.**

*The Cambridge Gazetteer of the United States and Canada: A Dictionary of Places*, edited by Archie Hobson is divided into five sections: Acknowledgements, Introduction and Guide to Using the Gazetteer, List of Glossary Entries, Abbreviations, the dictionary that lists the places (labeled as *The Cambridge Gazetteer of the United States and Canada*), and, finally, Maps. As explained in the Introduction and Guide to Using the Gazetteer section, entries start with the name of the place, defining it as either “a city, neighborhood, region, historical site, etc.,” its size by population and/or “physical extent,” and where the place is, “for instance, in what particular county or sector of what state or province, and how far from some familiar point of reference, like the state's major city” (x, 2003).

**Question:** I need to find information about Sacramento, California, but I am hesitant to use information I find on Wikipedia, and the city's website isn't that helpful. Can you help?

**Answer:** There is a great resource you can use. It's *The Cambridge Gazetteer of the United States and Canada: A Dictionary of Places*. It works just like a dictionary. All you have to do is look up Sacramento in the S section. Sacramento is on page 571.

**\*\*\*Please copy and paste your text for #15 (both primary and secondary annotations that you wrote) and #16 (discovery annotation) from GoogleDocs to the bottom of your practice questions document so that I have all of your work in one document. Thanks!**

79/80 Good job, Lindsay! You managed the questions well, and you explained your processes well. Your annotations were very helpful too. Thanks for your good work.