

Pathfinder for the Civil War

1. For general background information, use an **encyclopedia**, such as *World Book* or *Compton's Encyclopedia*.
2. Generate a set of **keywords** or terms, such as:
 - United States, Civil War
 - Confederate
 - UnionAlso look under the **specific** topics: Lincoln, Abraham; Underground Railroad; Lee, Robert E.; Tubman, Harriet; Brown, John; Douglass, Frederick; Scott, Dred
3. For specific facts, use specialized reference books, such as:
 - 920 CUR Current Biography
 - 920 D Dictionary of American Biography
 - 920 HIL American Civil War Biographies
 - 973 A Dictionary of American History
 - 973 SCH Encyclopedia of the United States
 - 973.7 American Civil War: Primary Sources
 - 973.7 American Civil War: Biographies
 - 973.7 American Civil War: Almanac
4. For current information search for periodicals a magazine index, such as EBSCO.
5. Some specific **periodicals** in this field include:
 - Civil War History
 - American Heritage
6. For current information, also check the **internet**. Remember to evaluate what you find because quality varies greatly from site to site. Some good websites include:
 - The Civil War Home Page <http://www.civil-war.net/>
 - The History Place <http://www.historyplace.com/civilwar/index.html>
 - The Civil War Circuit <http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/generals.html>
 - The American Civil War Homepage <http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/>
 - Aboard the Underground Railroad <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/underground/>
 - National Geographic.com <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/99/railroad/j1.html>
7. For in-depth information, examine **books**. Use your keywords to locate books through the library's catalog. Some good Dewey Decimal Classification Numbers include:

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|---------------------|---|
| 921s | Biography |
| 973s | United States – Civil War |
| 305s | Social Sciences |
| 973.7092 | Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865 -- Views on slavery |
| 305.567092, 326.092 | Tubman, Harriet, 1820?-1913 |
| 973.7116092 | Brown, John, 1800-1859 |
| 973.73092 | Lee, Robert E. (Robert Edward), 1807-1870 |