Native American Research Basics

**Step 1: Determine which kind of Research Question you are asking**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Textual Analysis (text/article/diary)</th>
<th>Historical Survey (event/organization/timeline)</th>
<th>Biographic Study (specific persons/figures)</th>
<th>Hot Topics (current events, issues, and debates)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ● “Native America” Historical Encyclopedia  
   ● Recent Indian Wars, Under the Lead of Sitting Bull  
   ● Joseph Smith Papers | ● Battle of Wounded Knee  
   ● The Native American Languages Act  
   ● LDS relations with Native American’s under President Kimball | ● Metacomet  
   ● Jim Thorpe  
   ● Crazy Horse  
   ● Spencer W. Kimball | ● Native Perspectives on development  
   ● Legal policy on Native American Reservations  
   ● LDS/Native relations |

**Step 2: Get Your Foundation [Background Resources] Main Goal: Broad overview of topic**

Background resources help you answer the basic who, what, where, when, and how questions about your topic. Use the Native American Studies Research Guide to find pertinent tabs. Google/Wikipedia searches can provide important background and bibliographies.

**Step 3: Hit the Sources [Major Databases] Main Goal: What’s been done and what’s missing?**

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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
   19th Century U.S. Newspaper Digital Archive (GALE) | ● Metacomet American Indians and the American West (Proquest) | ● Native Perspectives on development Indian Country Today |

Write down a list of each source that could be useful. You will go back through these sources in Step 4.

**Step 4: Obtain Your Resources [How to Get Them] Main Goal: Get a copy of your top citations**

HBLL catalog [http://lib.byu.edu/](http://lib.byu.edu/) (use this to find the book listed in your citation from Step 2 or 3)  
HBLL Journal Finder [http://sfx.lib.byu.edu/sfxcl3/az/](http://sfx.lib.byu.edu/sfxcl3/az/) (use this to find the journal listed in your citation from Step 2 or 3)  
Interlibrary Loan [https://illiad.lib.byu.edu/illiad/](https://illiad.lib.byu.edu/illiad/) (if BYU doesn’t own it, we can get it for you! Books 5-7 business days, Articles 1-3 business days)

**Step 5: Fill in the Gaps [Hail Mary Sources] Main Goal: Double-check there isn’t anything else**

These other resources can help if you still aren’t finding much.  
Dissertations & Theses [http://dbs.lib.byu.edu/dissertations](http://dbs.lib.byu.edu/dissertations)  
ATLA [http://dbs.lib.byu.edu/atla-database](http://dbs.lib.byu.edu/atla-database)