**www.library.ehc.edu**

**ETLA 100: TRANSITIONS I**
**The Frontier in Fact and Fiction**

**GETTING STARTED IN THE LIBRARY**

So you have an assignment in this class to find information on "the frontier."  How do you get started?

First of all, you will need to go to the **library web page.**  Second, unless you are already an expert on this topic, some background information or a general overview might be useful.  The **print** titles listed below (in call number order), all located in the **reference section** of Kelly Library, and the four online reference databases, have good articles on the historical, mythical, and popular culture aspects of the American frontier.  They are examples of **specialized encyclopedias**—they focus on a particular subject, as compared to **general** encyclopedias, such as *Americana* or *World Book*. The **online** reference databases can be accessed by going to the library's **A -Z Databases** list, or by the links built into this **guide**, if you are viewing it online via **Moodle** or the **Guides** link on the **library page**.  Of course, if at any point you need assistance locating or using any of the resources mentioned in this guide, please speak with a librarian!

**General Background Information**

***Encyclopedia of American Indian History***  REF E 77 .E48 2008
***Colonial America: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History***  REF E 162 .C68 2006
***Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Regional Cultures***  REF E 161 .G74 2004
     Vol. 1: *Great Plains*; vol. 3: *The Midwest* vol. 4: *Pacific*; vol. 6: *Rocky Mountains*; vol. 8: *Southwest*
     Volumes 1 and 3, *Great Plains* and *The Midwest*, are available **online** through *Credo Reference*
***Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History***  REF E 169.1 .E624 2001
     Articles on "The Frontier and the West,"  "Expansion and Empire," "Native Americans"
***Encyclopedia of the United States in the 19th Century***  REF E 169.1 .E626 2001
     Also available **online** through *Credo Reference*
***Dictionary of American History***  Ref E 174 .D52 2003  Also available online through *Gale Virtual Reference Library*
***St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture***  REF E 169.1 .S764 2000
     Article on "Westerns"
***Encyclopedia of Appalachia***  REF F 106.E53 2006
     Article on "Settlement and Migration
***Encyclopedia of the Great Plains***  REF F 591 .E4856 2004
***New Encyclopedia of the American West***  REF F 591 .N46 1998  Also available **online** through *Credo Reference*
***Encyclopedia of Exploration***  REF G 80 .W33 2004
     Article on "North America, Exploration of"
***Encyclopedia of the Novel***  REF PN 41 .E487 1998
     Article on "American Western Novel"
***Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film***  REF PN 1993.45 .G65 2007  Also available **online** through *Gale Virtual Reference Library.*
     Article on "Westerns"
***Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature*** REF PS 21 .E537 2004
     Article on "Western Fiction"
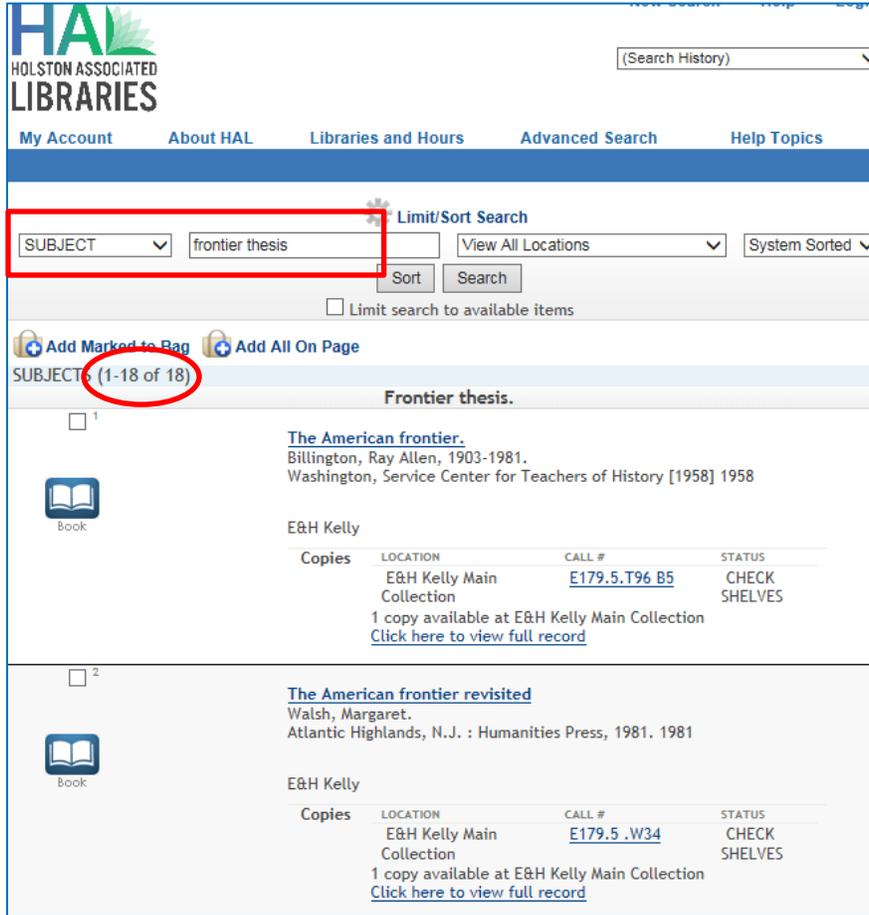***Biography in Context***
***Credo Reference***
***Gale Virtual Reference Library***
     All three of these online reference databases can be accessed on the **A - Z Databases** page.
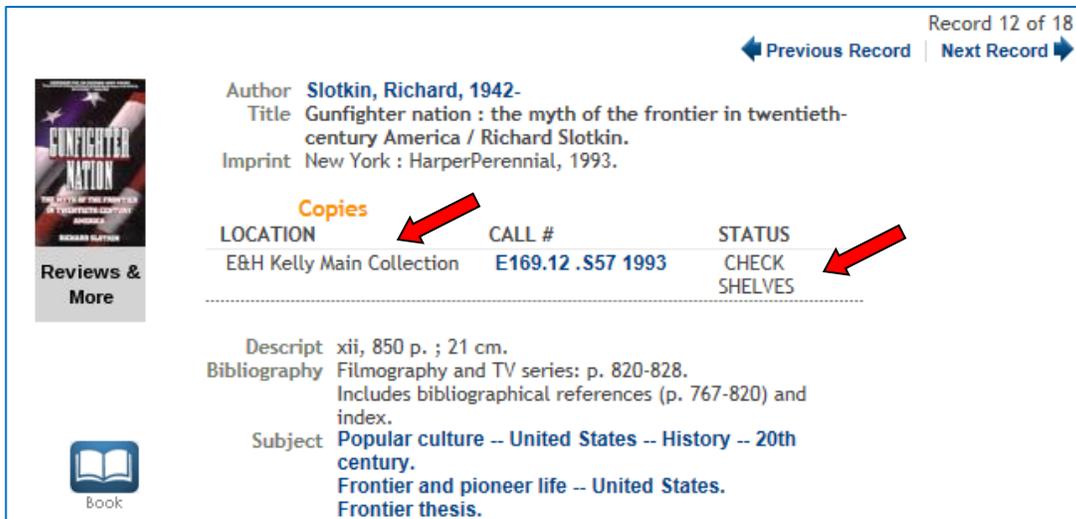
**FINDING MATERIAL WITH THE CATALOG**

After you have found some general information, you might want longer, more detailed information.  One great place to look is in the **online catalog**.  Emory & Henry College belongs to a group, or a consortium, of four

libraries called **H**olston **A**ssociated **L**ibraries, and they share a common catalog.  Sometimes you will hear library staff members refer to the catalog as **HAL**.  All types of items are in our catalog; besides books, there are DVDs, CDs, maps, electronic books, and other electronic resources.  You can search for material in several different ways:  by **subject**, **author**, **title**, or **keyword**. The screenshot below is from a subject search on **frontier thesis.**  When you scroll down the **results list**, you will see the title *Gunfighter Nation: The Myth of the Frontier in the Twentieth Century* by Richard Slotkin.



**Click** on it and you will see information about the book, where to find it, etc.

These sample searches are very basic; there are many ways you can limit or tailor your search.  We won't go deeply into that now, but the library staff wants you to be aware of the catalog and that it has the holdings of all formats of its member libraries.  The most important thing to remember is to ask for help!

**Note**: if you see an item at another HAL library, you can **request** it through the catalog and have it delivered to this campus.

### WHAT DO THESE STRANGE LETTERS AND NUMBERS MEAN?

After you have found books and other material in the catalog, how do you find these things in the library?  The call numbers don't look like what you are used to in your school learning resource center or local public library.  That's because Kelly Library uses the **Library of Congress** classification system, and your school or public library probably used the **Dewey Decimal** system.  Both classification schemes do the same thing: group library materials together by subject.  To help make things clearer, take a look at this **tutorial** from the University of Rhode Island to help you decipher Library of Congress call numbers.  Please do not attempt to contact URI library staff.  If you are having a tough time finding items on the shelves, do not hesitate to ask any Kelly Library circulation staff member or reference librarian for help.

In general, most of the circulating items on are on the top floor of the library.  The **reference collection**, **periodicals**, **newspapers**, **DVDs**, **CDs**, and **new books** are on the **main floor**.  The **ground floor** houses the **IT Help Desk**, an open computer lab (**Kelly Lab**), the **McGowan Lab**, **maps**, **microfilm** and a **government documents** collection.  The top floor contains most of the circulating collection and special collections.  Please feel free to ask any library or IT staff member for directions or help.

### FINDING ARTICLES IN DATABASES

Besides books, you will want articles.  Articles generally fall into two groups: **popular** magazines and **scholarly** periodicals.  You have online access to both kinds of articles through the many databases this library subscribes to.  Take a look at the **A - Z Databases** list**.**  There are dozens of databases, and most of them are partially or completely full-text.  You may already be familiar with *Expanded Academic* or *ProQuest*.  One database in this library that covers a wide range of subjects in both magazines and journals are **Academic Search Complete**.  Look at the screen shot below from *Academic Search Complete* with a search using the terms **frontier myth AND America**.

The search produced 70+ hits.  If the citation indicates **PDF** or **HTML** full-text, the article is there, ready for you to read or print.

As you can see on the **A - Z Databases** list, there are many specialized databases too.  To students in upper-division history classes seeking scholarly information on the United States frontier, the following databases may be of interest: ***America: History & Life***, ***America's Historical Newspapers 1690-1900***, ***The Civil War: Antebellum Period to Reconstruction***, ***Early Encounters in North America***, ***JSTOR***, ***North American Women's Letters and Diaries***, ***ProQuest Dissertations and Theses: Global***, and ***Salem Online Reference Books***.

Although newspapers may not be considered scholarly sources, they can be helpful in giving you information as the event was, or is, unfolding; tracing a story through the newspaper can give you a day-by-day breakdown of it. With a newspaper database such as ***America's Newspapers***, it's easy.  Below is a sample search on "**frontier myth" AND west** in *America's Newspapers*.



The search found several newspaper articles mentioning the frontier myth and the west.
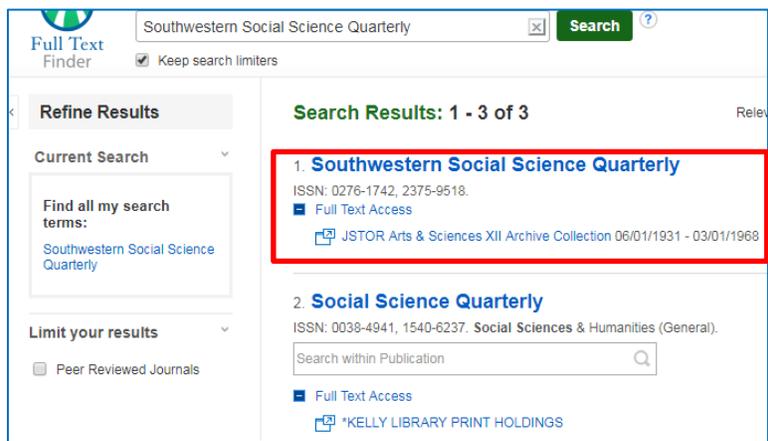
## WHAT DOES "SCHOLARLY" VERSUS "POPULAR" MEAN?

Throughout your college career, you will hear professors and librarians mention popular magazines and scholarly journals.  Or, your professors may tell you to rely on scholarly, not popular sources.  What does that

mean?  Generally, articles in popular magazines, such as *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Glamour, Psychology Today*, etc. are geared toward a large, diverse audience.  Scholarly journals, such as the *American Historical Review*, *American Journal of Psychology*, *Mind*, *International Journal of Ethics*, etc. are aimed at scholars and students in specialized fields.  *People* is a magazine about celebrities and popular culture; the *Journal of Popular Culture* studies and analyzes it.  Here is a **helpful chart** on the Skidmore College's Library website that will help you distinguish the differences between the two types of publications.
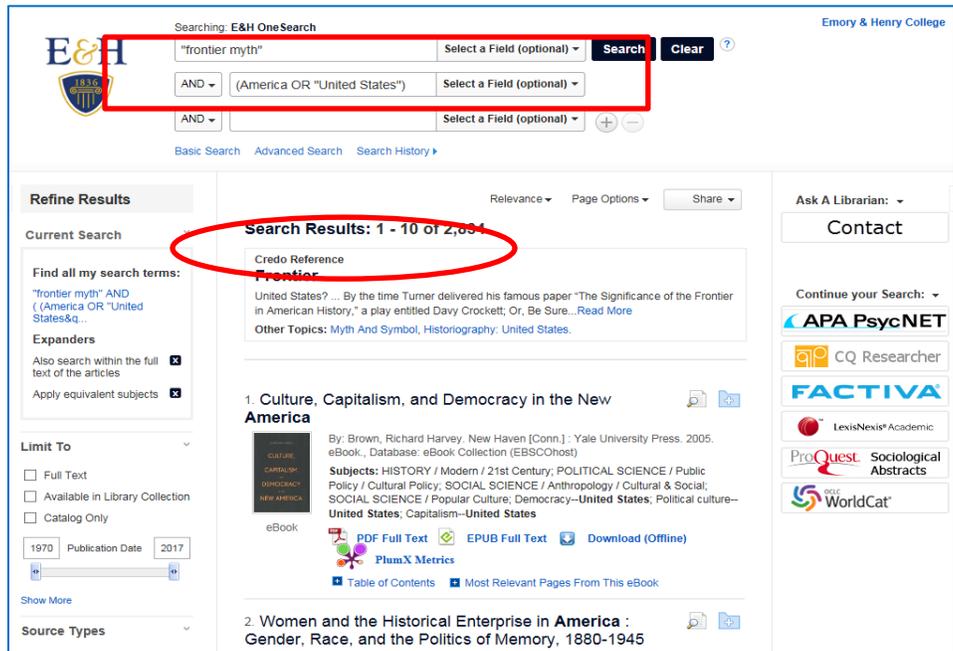
## WHAT DO YOU DO IF AN ARTICLE IS NOT FULL-TEXT IN A DATABASE?

If you're looking, for example, in *Academic Search Complete*, and you find an article that is not full-text, what do you do?  Go to our **Full Text E-Journals** list!  An article citation that may not be full-text in one database may very well be full-text in another one of the library's dozens of databases.  For example, a few screens in the Academic Search Complete query, I found an article in a 1941 issue of Southwestern Social Science Quarterly.  Does Kelly Library have it?  Yes, it's in the ***JSTOR*** periodical database.



## E&H ONESEARCH

**E&H OneSearch** is a discovery service that allows you to search almost all of Kelly Library's databases simultaneously (there are a few exceptions).  You have a choice: you can search almost everything at once, or if you prefer to search them separately, you have that option too.

## DOCUMENTATION AND PLAGIARISM

**Plagiarism** is serious academic misconduct.  The **E&H Academic Code** clearly states that it is a student's responsibility to give credit to another person's exact words or unique ideas.  The **Honor Code** reinforces this concept with the statement that one of its elements is "A commitment to abstain from all forms of cheating and plagiarism."  Documenting sources correctly will help you avoid this mistake in your papers and presentations. In high school, you may have already had some experience with the Turabian style of documentation.  Your professors will talk to you more in-depth about this issue.  Three other common styles you may hear your professors mention are **MLA** (Modern Language Association), **APA** (American Psychological Association) and the *Chicago Manual of Style*.  The library has guides for all of them.  Also, on the library's **Research Tips** page, there are links to several helpful sites.  The **Long Island University** and the **OWL** (**O**nline **W**riting **L**ab at Purdue University) websites are especially helpful.

## FINDING GOOD INTERNET SITES

There are lots of good web pages, and some that are not so good.  In high school, your teachers and media specialists have probably given you some advice on telling the good from the bad.  **Widener University's** Wolfgram Library has a good YouTube tutorial on evaluating web sites.

In addition to pages you find on your own with your favorite search engines, the librarians in Kelly Library have pulled together high-quality web sites, subscription databases and print resources by **subject**.  Take a look at the areas; you may see a resource you can use.  Click on **Subject Resources** under the **Research** column to see what we have listed.

## YOUR BEST RESOURCE

Your best resource in the library is the people who work here!  **If you are having problems** locating or using any of these resources, **please ask a library staff member for assistance**.  We're here to help you with your information needs.  Kelly Library is open **90+ hours** a week during the regular semester, and reference librarian are available 8am – 7pm Monday – Thursday and 8am-5pm Friday.

**Librarians: Jane** Caldwell, **Jody** Hanshew, **Janet** Kirby, and **Holly** McCormick
**Circulation Staff**: **Adam** Alley**, Morgan** Bitler, **Kat** Lilley**, Melissa** Phelps, and **Courtney** Sheets

Another valuable resource available to you on this campus is the E&H **Writing Center** in McGlothlin-Street 233.  The tutors there can work with you to improve your papers by giving you advice on grammar, organization and documentation matters; it is not an editing service.  For information on operating hours and tutor schedules, call ext. 6723 or check the Writing Center webpage. **Note:** in the Fall 2017 semester, Kelly Library is hosting a WC tutor on the main floor.  Also, you may want to consult with **Academic Support Services i**n the **Powell Resource Center** at ext. 6144.

One more resource that will help you with your research: Diana Hacker's grammar and composition book *A Writer's Reference*.  It contains an excellent section on doing research—how to set realistic deadlines, form a topic and refine it, etc. as well as giving you some practical tips.

**Remember**:  We're here to help you with your information needs.  Please don't hesitate to ask us for help. You can reach us by:

- calling the Circulation Desk at **ext. 6208**
- emailing **askalibrarian@ehc.edu**
- visiting the library in person

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