Library Instruction: Modern China

- **Identify a topic**
  - Confucianism
  - Qing Dynasty
  - The Opium War
  - The 1911 Revolution

- **Find an overview of the topic by using Reference books:**
  - Facts about China  REF DS706 .F25 2003
  - Modern China: a guide to a century of change  REF DS774.H796 2001
  - The Columbia guide to modern Chinese history  REF DS755.S635 2000
  - Political leaders of modern China: a biographical dictionary  REF DS755.3.P64 2002
  - Notable women of China: Shang dynasty to the early twentieth century  REF HQ1767.5.A3 N68 2000
  - Modern China : an encyclopedia of history, culture, and nationalism  Ref JC311 .M54 1998

- **Refine and, if necessary, narrow your topic:**
  - Example: Manchu and Qing Dynasty
  - 1911 Revolution and women

- **Search the STL Catalog for books on your topic.**
  - Choose “Words Anywhere” if you are not sure of the subject heading.
  - Choose “Subject begins with,” if you think your topic may be a subject.

The following are examples of possible “subject begins with” searches:

- **China -- History -- Qing dynasty, 1644-1912**
- **China -- History -- Opium War, 1840-1842**
- **China -- History -- Taiping Rebellion, 1850-1864**
- **China -- History -- Boxer Rebellion, 1899-1901**
- **China -- History -- 19th century**
- **China -- History -- Revolution, 1911-1912**
- **Mao, Tse-tung, 1893-1976**
- PRIMARY SOURCES - Primary sources provide firsthand evidence of historical events. These include letters, diaries, photographs, speeches, and other documents.

Use the following resources to find primary sources:

- **Historical New York Times:** Full-text coverage of the New York Times from 1851-2003
  To get to this database, visit [http://lib.newpaltz.edu/databases/dbindex.html](http://lib.newpaltz.edu/databases/dbindex.html) and find Historical New York Times from the drop-down list.

- **The Library of Congress American Memory:**
  [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html)

- To locate primary resources in **STL’s Library Catalog**, try searching by subject on the person, place, event, etc., in combination with one of the following terms: diaries, journals, letters, personal narratives, correspondence, sources, pictorial works, maps, and speeches.

- **RECENT SCHOLARSHIP IN BOOK FORM**

  Use STL’s Library Catalog and search by title, author, word(s) anywhere, or subject

  You can also search the database WorldCat for books in other libraries. If you find a book in this database that STL does not own, you can order the book through Interlibrary Loan. Books usually take 2-3 weeks to get to STL.

- **Finding Book Reviews**

  There are a few different databases that allow you to search for book reviews, which include the following:

  - **Academic Search Elite**
    Limit your results by: Document Type: Book Review & search by author or title
  
  - **Proquest**
    Click on “More Search Options” and limit by Document Type: Book review & Search with title or author’s name

  - **JSTOR**
    Go to the Expert Search and “Narrow Your Search To:” “These Types:” Review

- **Recent scholarship in peer-reviewed journals (use STL’s databases to find journal articles)**

  - **Academic Search Elite:** Covers many subject areas, with a considerable amount of full text. Limit to “Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals.”
  
  - **CSA Illumina:** Limited to: Journal Articles Only.
  
  - **Onfile (Infotrac):** Multidisciplinary database. Limit to "to peer-reviewed publications" for scholarly journal articles.
  
  - **JSTOR:** Archival source for full-text articles from scholarly sources (Asian Studies, History, Language & Literature, etc.)
  
  - **ProQuest:** Search for journals, magazines & newspapers; some with full text and images  
    Limit to " Scholarly journals, including peer-reviewed."