



Research Guide to Chinese in America

Welcome to the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA). This is an introductory research guide to Chinese experiences in America. This guide provides suggestions on where to **begin** researching topics on the Chinese American experience. We hope this will help you find a research topic that you are interested in studying in greater depth. Have fun and enjoy learning something new! Remember, the best papers are the ones that you are interested in writing!

RESEARCH TIPS

- **Research always begins with understanding the purpose and audience for your research.** *Why are you doing this research? (e.g. term paper to be read by teacher). Also, ask yourself: Why is this topic important? What do I want to tell to my reader(s)?* Answering these questions will help you form a clear and convincing argument.
- **Fine tune your research question(s) by reading general overviews of your topic either in a basic history book, online, or with resources provided by your teacher.** *What are you looking to learn and explore? (e.g. What are some important historical points in the Chinese American experience, with an emphasis on the role of laws on immigration patterns?).* Once you decide on a particular topic or idea, it will help you guide your research.
- **Ask a reference librarian at your public library.** The job of a reference librarian is to help patrons conduct library searches and give advice on the best way to access information relevant to your inquiry. For example, if you have been searching the internet for three hours without any progress, a reference librarian would be a good person to contact. To ask the librarian at The New York Public Library, please go to <http://www.nypl.org/questions/>.
 - ▶ **New York Public Library, Chatham Square Branch**
A Special Collection of texts on Chinese experiences in China and in the United States can be found at the Chatham Square Branch of the New York Public Library. 33 East Broadway [near Catherine St.], New York, NY 10002-6804. (212) 964-6598. chatham_square@nypl.org, Web: www.nypl.org/branch/local/man/chr.cfm
- **Use library databases to identify sources.** (e.g. For the term paper, I will go to the library and use their catalog to search sources using the following key words, “Chinese Americans”, “laws”, “immigration,” “history”).
- **Consider visiting museums.** Before your visit, review the museum’s website to explore what’s available online and what services are offered to researchers/students. If you decide to visit a museum, then have specific questions prepared and be sure to take notes.
- **Primary sources are important.** Secondary sources, such as textbooks, are often based on primary sources, such as first hand accounts, autobiographies, and official texts (e.g. laws and mandates). Try locating relevant primary sources for your research paper; they allow you to come into first-hand contact with historical sources without relying on secondary information written about them by another author, as well as analyze them on your own.
- **Consider conducting interviews.** Conducting interviews with individuals who have experienced a certain historical event or who have great knowledge relevant to your topic is a great way of expanding your research; it allows you to achieve a first hand encounter and primary source simultaneously. Individuals who might be helpful include professors, family members, and war veterans. Your teacher can help guide you.

- **Be careful of web-based sources!** The internet is a great resource to use because it's fast and easily accessible. However, it is easy to get false or incorrect information. Make sure that the information on a website is valid and the organization and/or author of the site are reliable. There is a handy guide to this located in the "Other Resources" category below.
- **Write a bibliography and use citations.** Keep track of your sources by writing a bibliography. It is important to show your reader where you got your information. Using a bibliography is also a good way of organizing all your research materials. Citations (references or direct quotes from your resources) are also good to use; they help to back up your argument. However, always cite an idea or a quote that is not yours, even if your paraphrase it! More information on how to write a bibliography and citation is located in the "Other Resources" category below.
*Helpful hint: If you are stuck and do not know where to search for more information on your topic, some authors include bibliographies at the end of their books. Use that to guide your research.

RESOURCES

I. U.S. LAWS

- Odo, Franklin. (2002). **The Columbia Documentary History of the Asian American Experience**. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
- **Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)**
Web: www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=47
- **Law Library of Congress**
Web: www.loc.gov/law/public/law.html
- **Historical Immigration and Naturalization Legislation**
Web: <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=dc60e1df53b2f010VgnVCM1000000ecd190aRCRD&vgnextchannel=dc60e1df53b2f010VgnVCM1000000ecd190aRCRD>

II. BIBLIOGRAPHIES/ENCYCLOPEDIAS/GUIDES

- Greene, Bill, Glass, Bob and Nealand, Daniel. (2004). **A Guide to Records of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders at the National Archives & Records Administration Pacific Region-San Francisco**. Reference Information Paper 111. San Francisco, CA: National Archives and Records Administration.
Contact: www.archives.gov/pacific/san-francisco
- Lowell, Wavery B. (1996). **Chinese Immigration and Chinese in the United States. Records in the Regional Archives of the National Archives and Records Administration**. Reference Paper 99. San Francisco, CA: National Archives and Administration.
Contact: www.archives.gov/pacific/san-francisco
Paper available online at www.archives.gov/locations/finding-aids/chinese-immigration.html
- Pan, Lynn. (1999). (Ed.). **The Encyclopedia of the Chinese Overseas**. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

III. NEWSPAPERS/MAGAZINES

- **New York Times**
Web: www.nytimes.com
- **New York Daily News**
Web: www.nydailynews.com
- **San Francisco Chronicle**
Web: www.sfgate.com
- **Los Angeles Times**
Web: www.latimes.com
- **AsianWeek**
Web: news.asianweek.com/news
- **Hypen**
Web: www.hyphenmagazine.com
- **Jade**
Web: www.jademagazine.com
- **Sinorama**
Web: www.sinorama.com.tw/en

IV. BOOKS

- Avakian, Monique (2002). **Atlas of Asian American History**. New York, NY: Facts on File.
- Bao, Xiaolan (2001). **Holding up more than half the sky: Chinese women garment workers in New York City, 1948-92**. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press.
- Chan, Sucheng (Ed.) (1991). **Entry Denied: Exclusion and the Chinese Community in America, 1882-1943**. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.
- Chan, Sucheng (Ed.). (2003). **Remapping Asian American History**. Oxford: Altamira Press.
- Chan, Sucheng. (1991) **Asian Americans: An Interpretive History**. Boston: Twayne Publishers.
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- Chang, Gordon, Him Mark Lai and Judy Yung (Ed.). (2006). **Chinese American Voices: From the Gold Rush to the Present**. Berkeley, CA: University of California.
- Chang, Iris (2003). **The Chinese in America: A Narrative History**. New York, NY: Viking.
- Chen, Shehong (2001). **Becoming Chinese, Becoming Chinese American**. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- Chin, Tung Pok & Chin, Winifred C (2000). **Paper Son: One Man's Story**. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- Chinese Historical Society of Southern California & the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. **Origins & Destinations: 41 Essays on Chinese America**. Los Angeles: Chinese Historical Society of Southern California & UCLA Asian American Studies Center.
- Choy, Philip P., ed. (1994). **The Coming Man: 19th Century Perceptions of the Chinese**. Seattle: University of Washington Press.
- Farkas, Lani Ah Tye. (1998). **Bury my bones in America: the saga of a Chinese family in California, 1852-1996 : from San Francisco to the Sierra gold mines**. Nevada City, CA: Carl Mautz Publishing.

- Gillenkirk, Jeff and Motlow, James (1987). **Bitter Melon: Inside America's Last Rural Chinese Town**. Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books.
- Jen, Gish (1991). **A Typical American**. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
- Gyory, Andrew (1998). **Closing the Gate: Race, Politics, and the Chinese Exclusion Act**. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- Hall, Bruce Edward (1998). **Tea That Burns**. New York, NY: The Free Press.
- Hamamoto, Darrell Y. and Rodolfo D. Torres (Eds.) (1997). **New York Destinies: A Reader in Contemporary Asian and Latino Immigration**. New York: Routledge.
- Hing, Bill Ong (1993). **Making and Remaking Asian America Through Immigration Policy, 1850-1990**. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Hoobler, Dorothy and Hoobler, Thomas (1994). **The Chinese American Family Album**. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hsu, Madeline Y (2000). **Dreaming of Gold, Dreaming of Home: Transnationalism and Migration between the United States and South China, 1882 - 1943**. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Huang, Fung-Yea (1997). **Asian and Hispanic Women in the Work Force: Implications of the United States Immigration Policies since 1965**. New York: Garland Publishers.
- Kingston, Maxine Hong (1976). **The Woman Warrior**. New York: Alfred P. Knopf.
- Kwong, Peter and Dusanka Miscevic (2006). **Chinese America: The Untold Story of America's Oldest New Community**. New York, NY: The New Press.
- Kwong, Peter (2000). **Chinatown, N.Y.: Labor Politics, 1930-50**. New York, NY: The New Press.
- Kwong, Peter (1999). **Forbidden Workers: Illegal Immigrants and American Labor**. New York, NY: The New Press.
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- Lai, Him Mark, Genny Lim, Judy Yung (1980). **Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940**. San Francisco: HOC DOI (History of Chinese Detained on Island).
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- Moon, Krystyn R. (2005). **Yellowface: Creating the Chinese in American Popular Music and Performance, 1850s-1920s**. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
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- Salyer, Lucy (1995). **Laws as Harsh as Tigers: Chinese Immigrants and the Shaping of Modern Immigration Law**. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
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- Zhao, Xiaojian (2002). **Remaking Chinese America: Immigration, Family, and Community, 1940-1965**. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- **Children's and Young Adult Resources: Suggested Chinese-American Children's and Young Adult Literature.**
Web: http://www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/lit_resources/diversity/asian_am/chinese.html

V. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- The **Asian American Federation of New York's Census Information Center** has reports up to the year 2006 on Asian American population statistics online at www.aafny.org/cic
- **NYS Data Center**
Web: www.nylovesbiz.com/nysdc/data_center.asp

- **U.S. Census Statistical Abstracts; Latest Update: 2008**
Web: www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/statab.html
- **FedStats – Federal Statistics (Last updated in March 12, 2007)**
Web: www.fedstats.gov

VI. VIDEOS/DVDs

- **Who Killed Vincent Chin? (1988).** New York: Films News Now.
- **Becoming American: the Chinese Experience (2003).** With Bill Moyers. Princeton, N.J.: FFH Home Video.
- **The Chinese Americans (1999).** New York: WLIW Productions.

VII. ELECTRONIC DATABASES & TEXT

- **Making of America (University of Michigan)**
Web: www.hti.umich.edu/m/moagrp
- **American Memory – U.S. Library of Congress**
Web: memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html
- **American Council of Learned Societies History E-Book Project**
Web: www.historyebook.org
- **Ellis Island Passenger List Search**
Web: www.ellisland.org/default.asp
- **Angel Island: An Oral History of Chinese Immigrant Detainees by photojournalist Lydia Lum)**
Web: www.angel-island.com
- **Newspaper Archives List (U.S. Library of Congress)**
Web: www.loc.gov/rr/news/oltitles.html
- **Library of Congress Online Catalog**
Web: <http://catalog.loc.gov>
- **National Archives Research Catalog**
Web: <http://www.archives.gov/research/arc>
- **Becoming American: The Chinese Experience (PBS)**
Web: www.pbs.org/becomingamerican/index.html
- **Calisphere: A World of Primary Resources and More**
Web: <http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu>

VIII. OTHER RESOURCES

- **New York Public Library, Chatham Square Branch**
A Special Collection of texts on Chinese experiences in China and in the United States can be found at the Chatham Square Branch of the New York Public Library. 33 East Broadway [near Catherine St.], New York, NY 10002-6804. (212) 964-6598. chatham_square@nypl.org, Web: www.nypl.org/branch/local/man/chr.cfm
- **Smithsonian Institution Asian Pacific American Program**
Web: www.apa.si.edu/APA_resources.htm
- **Columbia University Subject Guide on Archives & Manuscript Collections**
Web: www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eguides/speccol.html
- **University of California, Santa Cruz: How to Evaluate Web Sources**
Web: <http://library.ucsc.edu/ref/howto/evaluate.html>
- **How to Write an A+ Research Paper**
Web: <http://www.aresearchguide.com/1steps.html>
- **Memorial University Libraries: How to Write Citations and Bibliographies in the MLA Format.**
Web: <http://www.library.mun.ca/guides/howto/mla.php>
- **Citation Machine (this helpful web machine writes the bibliography and citations for you. All you have to do is type in the information!)**
Web: <http://citationmachine.net>

IX. PUBLICATIONS @ MOCA STORE

Web: www.mocanyc.org

- **Allies and Enemies: The Dilemma of Asian Americans During World War II (1996)**
- **Red Boat on the Canal: Cantonese Opera in New York Chinatown (2000)**
- **Tong Zhi/Comrade: Out In Asia America (2000)**
- **Where is Home?: Chinese in the Americas (2002)**
- **Chinatown Historical Map & Guide (1988)**
- **Timeline: 400 Years of History of Chinese in the Americas (2001)**
- **Transitions: The Changing Profile of New York Chinatown CD-ROM (2000)**