

Resources for Researching Historical Fiction

Books

Writer's Digest "writer's guide to everyday life" series: written specifically for writers, covering common food, clothing, transportation, slang, customs and more. Colonial America, Renaissance England, the Middle Ages and the Wild West are just a few of the time periods covered. Several titles are out of print, but you can often find them in the library and at used bookstores online.



American Popular Culture Through History: this series explores the activities, common items, popular opinions, entertainment, shopping habits and other everyday aspects that impacted American life. Each book focuses on a different decade, from 1900 through 2000.

Online

Newspaper archives

- *New York Times*, 1851-present <http://www.nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html>
- American newspapers, 1690-present <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- International newspaper archives <http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/oltitles.html#forn>

General interest

- *Saturday Evening Post* archives (articles, classic advertisements, culture, etc.)
<http://www.saturdayeveningpost.com/sections/archives>
- Historical societies and organizations (comprehensive list of links from American Historical Association)
<http://www.historians.org/affiliates/index.cfm>
- Living history, farm and agricultural museums (list of links for U.S., Canada, Spain, Sweden, U.K.)
http://alhfam.org/?cat_id=146&nav_tree=153,146#75
- Early Modern Resources (lots of resources for years 1500-1800 and a wide range of topics)
<http://earlymodernweb.org/>
- Historic city **maps** <http://historic-cities.huji.ac.il/>
- Popular **baby names** in U.S. by decade (plus other fun baby-name data like top names for twins, etc.)
<http://www.ssa.gov/oact/babynames/decades/index.html>
- **Clothing** and costume history <http://libguides.library.kent.edu/clothinghistory>
- **Food** history <http://foodmuseum.com/>
- Historic **weather** data in the United States
http://www.nws.noaa.gov/pa/climate_data.php