



*Educating for Global Understanding*

## Online Search Tips & Strategies

Throughout *China Since 1644*, we recommend that you search for additional information and resources on various topics. There are several databases, websites, and search engines you can use to find more information. Below are recommendations from the Primary Source Library.

### **Proprietary Databases** (check with your school or public library for access)

#### Academic OneFile

Scholarly journal, popular magazine, and newspaper articles from over 15,000 publications.

#### Gale Virtual Reference Library

Digitized reference sources including the *Encyclopedia of Modern China*.

#### Global Issues in Context

Articles on global issues such as the environment, economy, diplomacy, and health. Resources include podcasts, newspaper articles from around the world, and videos.

#### JSTOR

A robust database of scholarly journal articles. Good for research on 20<sup>th</sup> Century China.

### **Free Websites**

#### Asia for Educators

<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/>

Resources from Columbia University on Asian history from 4000 BCE to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Arranged by time period and by country (China, Japan, Korea) or region (Southeast Asia and South Asia). Includes primary source documents, online exhibitions, and classroom activities.

#### Asia Society

<http://asiasociety.org/>

Find op-eds, videos, and articles about China's history, politics, education, and culture.

#### The New York Times: China

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/china/index.html>

The China country news page of *The New York Times* with articles, videos, multimedia, and links to additional blogs and media about contemporary China.

#### Primary Source

<http://www.primarysource.org/resourceguides>

Resource guides on modern China, the environment, and East Asian literature list book, film, and website recommendations for further research and learning about China. Compiled by the Primary Source Library.

## Search Engines

The most popular search engine is Google. Below are tips for better and more efficient searching with Google. These tips and concepts can also be used with other search engines. Be sure to check the help pages of your preferred search engine site to find additional search tips.

### Constructing Keywords and Phrases

When constructing your search, think of your research question in terms of main ideas. For the question “How did the Cultural Revolution affect the Chinese people?” pull out the main points of the question, rather than type the question into Google. In this case the search phrase might be:

China Cultural Revolution impact

Note: Capitalization does not matter when searching in Google.

To refine this search, consider adding quotation marks to the phrase Cultural Revolution. This will search for pages where the words Cultural and Revolution are written as an exact phrase instead of appearing separately anywhere on the page. In this case the search phrase might be:

China “Cultural Revolution” impact

One search or one search string will not be enough to research a topic. Consider revising your search. Brainstorm related keywords, synonyms, and specific events or people involved. Use a website like Instagrok (<http://www.instagrok.com>) to help brainstorm additional keywords.

Additional keywords to use for the research question might include:

- Revisionism
- Red Guard
- Mao Zedong (or Mao Tse Tung)
- Communist Party
- Women
- Family

### Limit by Site or Domain

A regular Google search will yield results from .com, .net, .gov, .org, .edu, and other domains. One way to narrow your search is to search within specific domains. For example, search only .org, .gov., or .edu domains to eliminate results from .com or .net sites.

To limit by domain, construct your search like the example below.

China Cultural Revolution site:org

Note: Be sure that you do not put a space between the colon and the domain.

Wikipedia will appear in results as a .com and a .org. Want to eliminate Wikipedia from your search results? Try this:

China Cultural Revolution site:org -wiki

Use the strategy below to search for information from Chinese websites. The domain for Chinese sites is .cn.

China Cultural Revolution site:cn

Want to search government sites in China? Try:

China Cultural Revolution site:gov.cn

Another way to use the domain limit function is to search within a website. For example, if you want to see what the Asia Society website has about the Cultural Revolution, try the following search string.

China Cultural Revolution site:asiasociety.org

### **Customized Date Range**

Use Google's Advanced Search Tools to customize the date range of sources. For example, we know the Cultural Revolution spanned the years 1966–1976. Try narrowing the date range to 01/01/1966 to 01/01/1977 to see how this changes your results.