

An Idiosyncratic, Annotated Bibliography on Historical
and Related Research Methods

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Barzun, Jacques, & Graf, Henry F. The Modern Researcher, 3rd ed.
New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1977.

Already in its third edition when I discovered it, Barzun and Graf provide practical information on methods of historical research, brief discussions of issues found in philosophy of history, and guidance on writing clearly.

Best, John Hardin (Ed.). Historical Inquiry in Education.
Washington, D.C.: The American Educational Research
Association, 1983.

A collection of essays by major historians of education who examine recent developments in their areas of specialization and suggest directions for the future.

Carr, Edward Hallett. What is History? New York: Vintage
Books, 1961.

Methods of historical research can be traced back to the ancient Greek Herodotus (p. 113) and this book, while somewhat newer, is a classic discussion of the nature of history.

Conway, Jill. The Female Experience in 18th and 19th Century
America. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1985.

A guide to sources, each section of which includes a brief essay outlining some relevant issues and interpretations.

Cremin, Lawrence A. Traditions of American Education. New York:
Basic Books, 1977.

Cremin's Merle Curti lectures provide an overview of his three-volume history of American education and of his approach to historical research.

Gottschalk, Louis. Understanding History, 2nd ed. New York:
Alfred A. Knopf, 1969.

I was delighted when I found my second-hand copy of this "primer of historical method;" Gottschalk provides succinct discussions of authenticity, credibility, historical selection, cause, motive, and influence, among other topics -- another classic presentation of what it is that historians do when they are doing history.

Higham, John, & Conkin, Paul K. (Eds.) New Directions in American Intellectual History. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979.

Examples of newer approaches to history of ideas and history of culture as well as definitions of intellectual history; useful for content as well as method (see especially essays by Neil Harris, Thomas Bender, and Warren Susman).

Hockett, Homer Cary. The Critical Method in Historical Research and Writing. New York: Macmillan, 1955.

Designed as a textbook for graduate students in history, this volume offers practical advice on critical analysis of source documents and on writing a thesis or dissertation; although outdated in terms of technology (microfilm is as cutting edge as it gets), much of its advice is still useful.

Ives, Edward D. The TapeRecorded Interview. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1980.

There are other manuals on doing oral history, but this one is my favorite due to its practical advice and brevity; much of the information on tape-recording technology is not necessary for those who have been using a Walkman all their lives, but the guidelines for interviewing remain useful.

Jaeger, Richard M. (Ed.). Complementary Methods for Research in Education. Washington, D.C.: American Educational Research Association, 1988.

Section II (pp. 59-128) looks at Historical Methods in Educational Research; the essay by Carl F. Kaestle briefly discusses revisionism and quantitative methods; the section concludes with an excerpt from Bailyn's seminal essay, Education in the Forming of American Society.

Kleinbauer, W. Eugene (Ed.) Modern Perspectives in Western Art History. New York: Holt Rinehart and Winston, 1971.

Part One is Kleinbauer's introduction to art historical methods and genres -- an invaluable reference; Parts Two and Three give examples of various approaches organized by intrinsic and extrinsic perspectives.

Lubar, Steven, & Kingery, W. David (Eds.). History from Things: Essays on Material Culture. Washington, D.C.: The Smithsonian Institution Press, 1993.

The essays by Prown, Csikszentmihalyi, Maquet, and Jones may be the most thought-provoking for historians of art education; nonetheless, this collection provides an excellent overview of current methods and issues in material culture studies.

Schlereth, Thomas J. (Ed.) Material Culture Studies in America. Nashville, TN: American Association for State and Local History, 1982.

If you can only add one book on material culture studies to your reference library, buy this one; I have found it useful not only for method, but also for content and pedagogy.

Tuchman, Barbara. Practicing History. New York: Ballantine Books, 1982.

A collection of essays written by Tuchman over the course of her long career; the first section discusses her approach to historical method, and includes an essay on The Historian as Artist.

van Leunen, Mary-Claire. A Handbook for Scholars. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1978.

A useful supplement to specific style manuals such as the APA and University of Chicago volumes, this reference book discusses peculiarities of scholarly writing and gives explanations for the functions of such things as footnotes and abstracts, as well as guidance on how to write them.

Williams, Raymond. The Sociology of Culture. New York: Schocken Books, 1981.

Williams lays out a theoretical structure and research agenda for sociology of culture which has intriguing implications for history of art education.

Wolff, Janet. The Social Production of Art. New York: New York University Press, 1984.

In recent years a number of historians have turned to sociology for methods and interpretive frameworks; Wolff's approach to analyzing art as ideology and cultural product merits careful reading and re-reading.

Historian's Fallacies