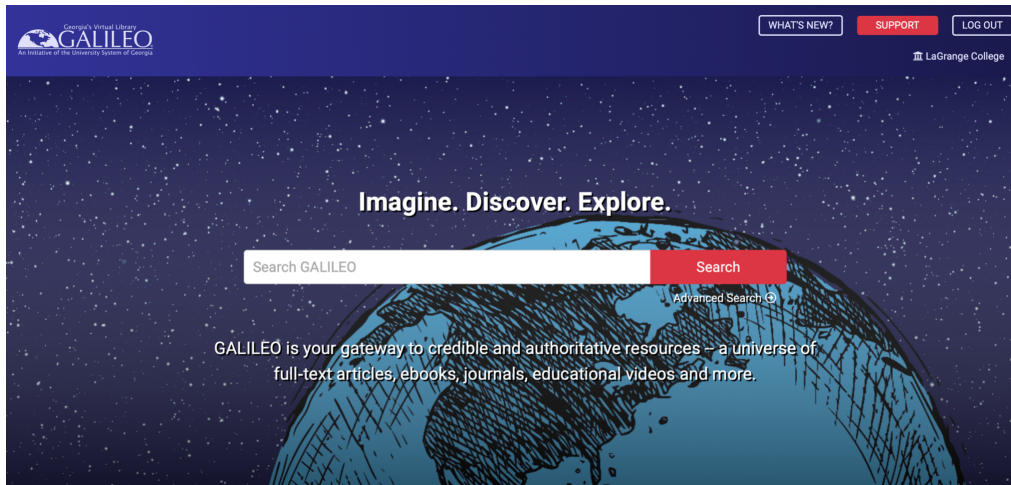


Unit 10 - Research Tools

What about the Internet?



As you know, the internet is a remarkable resource for information. You can simply ask your web browser a question, and it'll give you page after page of websites with the answer. That can be a blessing and a curse. You must approach the internet with the critical eye of a 'scholar.'

- The internet can be an informative place to start your research. Just like your library there are online encyclopedias and dictionaries that can provide you with a solid introduction. You'll want to look for articles with citations and references in order to verify their validity, but they are out there.
- If your school has access to GALILEO visit the National History Day libguide. It is a customized guide built just for you! Anything you access through GALILEO has been reviewed by academics, so unlike a general web search you can have full confidence in the sources you find.
- You can use the internet to prepare for a visit to an academic library or archive by using their online catalogs, pathfinders, and databases to identify the sources you want to consult when you visit.
- Online exhibits and document collections. Many institutions have begun to digitize their collections and make them accessible via the web. Once you've gotten into your

research and have narrowed your topic you can take advantage of these online collections of primary sources.

- The number of resources available to students via the web continues its geometric growth. A consolidated list can be found at the NHDGeorgia [“Student” page](#) and the NHD National [Student Resources page](#) (click on Helpful Research Links).

Beware!!! Not all websites are created equal!

- Pay attention to the site host. If it’s an academic institution (.edu) or a governmental agency (.gov or .uk) or archive you can have more confidence in the accuracy of the information on the site than if it was hosted by ‘aliensbuiltit.com’. **Please be careful.**
- Online research should be conducted along with traditional historical research, NOT replace it.
- Students often find the same information restated on one website after another. The traditional scholarship on the field (books and journals) will offer you a deeper and more nuanced exploration of the topic which is exactly what you need for your history day project!

