America History and Life

*America: History and Life* is the definitive index of literature covering the history and culture of the United States and Canada, from prehistory to the present. With indexing for 1,700 journals from as far back as 1910, this database is without question the most important bibliographic reference tool for students and scholars of U.S. and Canadian history.

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**CLIO Notes** are a great way to get an overview of your time period. See the next page for examples.

This is a useful limiter for researching your audience context. For the period you want to investigate, say the 1960s, enter the first year, 1960 in the first box, then select C.E. (AD) from the dropdown menu on the next line, then enter the last year of your decade, 1969, and select C.E. (AD) from the dropdown menu on the next line below that.

The default function is to search all fields for your keywords. Using the subject terms the database has assigned to your topic can help make your results more relevant.

Publication date is usually different from the historical period being written about!
CLIO Notes in the *America, History & Life* database

CLIO Notes are a great way to orient yourself quickly to significant events in various historical eras. Use them to get an overview of your film’s time period, and to gather keywords for deeper searches on your film’s historical and audience context.
Using subject terms in the *America, History & Life* database

In English, you can often use many different words to convey the same or similar ideas. For instance, you can use the term film, or movie, or motion picture, or cinema. Database providers often try to help researchers by applying a *subject heading* to gather all these various but similar terms under one heading. Try using database-provided search terms to zero in on more relevant search results.

The default function is to search all fields for your keywords. Using the subject terms the database has assigned to your topic can help make your results more relevant.

Note that if I select the subject term *motion pictures* from this list on my results page, I get fewer results. That’s because the database keeps my keyword term *Hollywood* that I used above, and further limits my results to ones that have also been given the subject heading *motion pictures*. Results are different if I put *motion pictures* in as my keyword in the main search box, and select SU Subject Terms from the dropdown menu. Then the keyword *Hollywood* is left out.
The term *motion pictures* is a subject term assigned by the database, and provides more relevant results than *Hollywood*, the keyword term I used above.

Questions? Ask us!

Contact a librarian at the first floor desk, or go to [http://library.uwb.edu/askus.html](http://library.uwb.edu/askus.html)