Sources for Tudor and Stuart History

HANDBOOKS AND ENCYCLOPEDIAS

These will help you to place your topic in context, to identify key themes, persons, and events, and to develop a basic bibliography of relevant publications.


Chapters by various academics that summarize the current state of scholarship on topics such as law, women and gender, exploration and trade, colonial affairs, and more.


These handy compendiums offer lists of officeholders, chronologies, background on institutions such as Parliament or the Church, education, or warfare, and selected biographies.


Covers all periods, with signed articles on events, people, places, and themes. Most entries include short bibliographies.


Includes many articles on popular culture and thought.

BIOGRAPHY

http://libinfo.uark.edu/eresources/help.asp?TitleCode=DNB

The Oxford DNB is the successor to the original Dictionary of National Biography (DNB), and provides authoritative biographical essays on deceased Britons or those who have made significant contributions to the history of the United Kingdom. Most essays include bibliographies listing additional sources and providing details as to the location of manuscript collections, published memoirs, letters, etc. The online version allows you to search for keywords or to browse by time period, theme, or other criteria.

STATISTICS, DATES, AND FACTS


BIBLIOGRAPHIES


Even though outdated for secondary scholarship, these bibliographies describe primary source materials in chronological sections as well as in topical chapters on religion, intellectual life, military affairs, technology, local history, and other subjects.
**BOOK CATALOGS**

InfoLinks  
[http://libinfo.uark.edu](http://libinfo.uark.edu)  
InfoLinks is the library catalog for the University of Arkansas.

WorldCat  
WorldCat is a union catalog that lists books, journals, and other formats held by libraries worldwide. Items not held in our collection may often be borrowed on Interlibrary Loan through ILLiad.

Library of Congress subject headings are used in both catalogs; though you can always try a keyword search, knowing some important subdivisions can save time. Examples:

- great britain—history—tudors, 1453-1603  
- great britain—history—stuarts, 1603-1714  
- great britain—history—civil war, 1642-1649  
- great britain --history – [monarch]  
- reformation—england  
- great britain -- politics and government -- 1642-1660  
- england—intellectual life—17th century  
- great fire and sources  
- church of england and history and sources  
- great britain and colonies and sources  
- america and exploration and sources

**SCHOLARLY ARTICLES**

Historical Abstracts  
Indexes and abstracts articles, book reviews, and dissertations on all aspects of world history and culture outside the U.S. and Canada. Use the time period limit to restrict your search to specific eras, e.g., theat* and london and 1660-1688.

The Find it! button will help you locate available online full-text of articles, conduct an InfoLinks search to determine where the journals are held in the Libraries, or send an ILL request for items not available in print or online.

JSTOR  
A collection of core journals in the humanities, social sciences, sciences, and mathematics digitized in most cases back to the first date of issue. Note that most titles are only digitized after an approximate five-year time lag so that journal issues available are not current.

**SOURCE COLLECTIONS**

Early English Books Online (EEBO)  
Includes all books printed in English from the beginning of printing to 1700. An extremely rich source for political pamphlets, religious tracts, royal proclamations, and more. many thousand documents from the Civil War period, the “Thomason Tracts,” have recently been added. Search across full text or use the subject search option to use modern subject terms and spellings, for example:

- keywords: plague or pestilence or infection or contagion  
- subject heading: Plague -- England -- London
British History Online

http://www.british-history.ac.uk/

This growing collection, provided by Institute of Historical Research and the History of Parliament Trust, offers core printed primary and secondary sources, including the free full text of Commons and Lords Journals from the 16th and 17th centuries, as well as county histories, maps, etc. NOTE that some resources (for example, the Calendars of State Papers) are restricted to subscribers.

[Hakluyt Society Publications] MAIN G161 H2, 1847-. Complete list of all publications is online at http://www.hakluyt.com/hak-soc-bibliography.htm; the Libraries currently have Series 1: no.17,27,38;ser.2 no.65-70,73,81,90,104-106,110,112,117,121,123,128-131,136-137,139-140,146. Other volumes can be borrowed on Interlibrary Loan. An important series of scholarly editions of early travel and exploration narratives. The Society also maintains a list of digitized titles at http://www.hakluyt.com/digital_books.htm, though most of these are for 19th century explorations.

Tracts on Liberty in the Puritan Revolution: 1638-1647. 3v. New York: Columbia University Press, 1934. MAIN DA 412 .A1 H3. Most of these are also available in EEBO but this is a convenient collection of “greatest hits.”

[Parker Society Publications]. This series of edited works, originally published in the 19th century, present writings by clergy and other thinkers of the English Reformation. The Libraries do not own all volumes but look under title for “Parker Society” in InfoLinks or WorldCat to retrieve a list of available texts.

[Victoria County Histories]. London: University of London, Institute of Historical Research, 1905- MAIN-OV DA 670.... Valuable for their exhaustive coverage of local history in all time periods, these oversized volumes can be useful for identifying records and source collections. Many volumes are now available on the Internet as part of the British History Online site, described above.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

As mentioned above, EEBO contains many royal proclamations and speeches. In addition, the following sources may be useful for the Tudor – Stuart period.

Proclamations


Calendars of State Papers

Read fuller description at: http://libinfo.uark.edu/periodicals/Microformdetails.asp?ID=69

"Calendars" are digests of actions and papers from the monarch's council created by the Secretary of State. These abstracts can be quite detailed and, in some cases, reproduce documents in their entirety. The original documents are housed in the Public Record Office (PRO). Use the British History Online site (described above) to locate papers of interest in your work. Our library has calendars in several different series:

- Domestic Series (Henry VIII - William III, 1509-1702)

Papers in the Domestic Series treat every aspect of internal governmental affairs
including "social and economic affairs, law and order, religious policy, crown possessions and intelligence gathering as well as some references to foreign policy" (PRO web site). Arranged by monarch, and then chronologically with some addenda. In English, Latin, and some French. Contents:

- Edward VI, 1547-1553, Mary, 1553-1558, Elizabeth I, 1558-1603, James I, 1603-1625: PER MINIOPAQ DA25 .H7 1861
- Charles I, 1625-1649: PER MINIOPAQ DA395 .A25
- Commonwealth, 1649-1660: PER MINIOPAQ DA420 .A25 1649
- Charles II, 1660-1685: MAIN DA395 .A25 (volume 1 only)
- James II, 1685-1688: MAIN DA25 .F4 (volume 3 only)

- Foreign Series (Henry VIII– Elizabeth, 1509-1582)
  Papers in the Foreign Series concern the conduct of diplomacy, including letters between heads of state, espionage and foreign intelligence, consular dispatches, and secretarial memoranda regarding naval and military affairs. After 1577, papers were organized by geographical region or country rather than in series by monarch. Our collection includes:
  - Edward VI – Elizabeth, 1547-1582, PER MINIOPAQ DA25 .H7 1861

- Colonial Series: North America and the West Indies (1574-1739)
  On CD-ROM at Reference Desk
  This set, originally published in 40 print volumes, includes more than 44,000 transcripts and extended abstracts from 1574 to 1739 between the British colonial offices and local government. The material covers a wide range of subject areas, including orders and grants from central government to local administration; the slave trade; piracy; agriculture; boundary disputes; administration; reports of conferences with Native Americans; plantations; immigration; land grants; legislation; industries such as ship building and fisheries; relations with French, Spanish Dutch, including intercepted letters; trade; privateering; war; and reports of court cases.

Parliamentary Papers and Debates
The Libraries hold an extensive collection of Parliamentary Papers and debates; students can also borrow Parliamentary papers from the Center for Research Libraries (CRL). The parliamentary record is less well documented for Tudor and Stuart periods than in later eras. Many parliamentary records are also available on British History Online, described above.

“Journals” are similar to the Congressional Record of the United States in that these will document daily actions in each chamber:

Both are also available at British History Online: [http://www.british-history.ac.uk/subject.aspx?subject=6](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/subject.aspx?subject=6)

“Debates” or “Proceedings” (in later years known as “Hansard”) will record speeches as well as actions. The following source collections for the Commons include debates, memoirs, and other related documents:

MEMOIRS, DIARIES, CORRESPONDENCE, WRITINGS

Many first-hand accounts from the 16th and 17th centuries have been published; the period is especially rich in observations by meticulous diarists such as Pepys. Selected sources are given here in roughly chronological order


**CENTER FOR RESEARCH LIBRARIES (CRL)**
[http://www.crl.edu/PDF/pdfBrochures/British.pdf](http://www.crl.edu/PDF/pdfBrochures/British.pdf)

The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) collects expensive or rare materials so that they can be shared by member organizations. Because the Libraries are a member of CRL, materials can be borrowed on extended loan for research purposes. A few collections that might be useful for this period include:


Anthony Bacon, son of Sir Nicholas Bacon, entered the service of Robert Devereux, 2nd earl of Essex, and was private secretary for foreign affairs. The papers are primarily concerned with his official duties and family matters and cover the years 1579-98.


Sir William Clarke was one of the chief secretaries to the Generals of the Parliamentary and Cromwellian army from the end of the Civil War to the Restoration. Clarke's papers concern the British Civil War and the Army and military proceedings, particularly in Scotland.


Sir George Carew held several official positions in Ireland and England from 1574 to 1611. The Carew papers cover the administration of Ireland and the settlement of Ulster during the 16th and early 17th centuries.

Harleian collection of Tudor and Stuart Manuscripts in the British Library. (Harvester) 211 reels. GUIDE: Reference Folder #175.

This is an ongoing project for which the Center now has parts 1-9. The microfilm reproduces volumes from the British Library's collection of manuscripts from the 16th and 17th centuries. Included are tracts and papers on the reigns of Edward VI and Mary, documentation of speeches, legislation, political trials and cases at Star Chamber and Chancery.


This set reproduces 541 volumes and 100 supplementary volumes from the Stuart archives. The film includes original letters to the Stuarts, copy letters for them, and other miscellaneous materials.


This series covers 1540-1660, and contains documents covering the political, legal and religious
history of Tudor and Stuart England. Includes records from Lord Burghley, among others.

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