

Suggestions for Using Historical Websites

For each website, consider the following:

- 1) First (and most importantly) is this a reputable website? Are there spelling/grammatical/mechanical errors? Is the written material clear and concise? Are there references to other reputable primary and/or secondary sources?
- 2) Be wary of Wikipedia!! While you can certainly find relevant information on Wikipedia, remember that virtually anyone can still contribute to the website. Online editors may eventually cleanse the page of useless or inaccurate information but you may unfortunately locate the page before it's been edited.
- 3) Try using an Advanced Search with www.google.com. Go to the advanced search link on Google. Type in "edu" within the "search within site or domain" box. If you're searching for "Ex Parte Merryman", the search will only call up educational websites dealing with that topic. You'll still have to navigate through the edu websites (there will be plenty of subpar sites) but at least you'll know where the information is coming from.
- 4) Avoid websites with too many advertisements and popups. They are aggravating, distracting and reflect badly on the relevancy of the site.