A survey of the archaeology and prehistory of Ogdensburg, NY

Resources from the MIT Libraries

Five Research Strategies

1. Mine references from books and articles you already have or know about
2. Look up a book + Click on subject headings
3. "Unknown items" catalog search
4. Search article databases
5. Visit other area libraries

Strategy #1: Mine references from books and articles you already know about or have

It’s often smart to start with a reference work.
Let’s start with Sturtevant

- It’s a classic work and a great starting place if your home region is North America
- Look at vol. 3 (Environment, Origins, and Population) and your regional volume. For me, that’s vol. 15 (Northeast).
So how do I get this book from the library?
But what if I’m not the only student from my home region?

What should I do if my classmate beats me to a book?
Another good reference source
I’m also going to try Oxford Handbooks Online: Archaeology.
After you’ve looked at reference sources . . .

- You have a list of recommended resources. Get them and read them.
- Then, get and read the books and articles from the bibliographies.

Strategy #2: Look up a book + Click on subject headings
Strategy #3: “Unknown items” search

- We’ve searched for “known items” (specific books). What about books we don’t know about yet?
- We can search Barton and Worldcat based on what we found in earlier searches of “known items.”

Search using similar subject headings

- Keep in mind that our geographical categories and boundaries now might not map to prehistory.
- So, for Northern New York, I might also want to look at Ontario, Quebec, and Vermont.
- I’ll use the subject heading “New York (State)—Antiquities” as a model.

It’s helpful to narrow down your list of results!!
Combine subject headings and keywords

Strategy #4: Search article databases.

If you're lucky, we'll have the article online through a subscription.
If we don't have it online, we might have it in print.

Even if we don't have it in either format, you can still request it through Interlibrary Borrowing (ILB).

Note: Limit by historical period!

Strategy #5: Visit other local libraries