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ABSTRACT

The history of technology can be approached not only as a chronology of machine development and a study of artifacts, but also as a study of economic and social development. Although the emphasis in this document is on general histories of technology in the English language, many of the sources listed could be useful in compiling the histories of individual branches of technology. This guide to the literature on the history of technology in the collections of the Library of Congress is not necessarily intended to be a comprehensive bibliography. It is designed to provide the reader with a set of resources that can be used to focus on the topic. The document lists the subject headings used by the Library of Congress in cataloging information on the history of technology. It also contains citations of materials categorized as: (1) brief introductions; (2) basic texts; (3) additional titles; (4) handbooks and encyclopedias; (5) other bibliographies; (6) conference proceedings; (7) government publications; (8) abstracting and indexing services; (9) journal articles; (10) technical reports; and (11) additional sources of information. (TW)

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THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY
Compiled by Diana Niskern

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SCOPE: The history of technology can be approached not only as a chronology of machine development and a study of artifacts, but also as a study of economic and social development. Although the emphasis in this guide is on general histories of technology in the English language, many of the sources listed will be useful in compiling the histories of individual branches of technology. Not intended to be a comprehensive bibliography, this compilation is designed--as the name of the series implies--to put the reader "on target." Related Tracer Bullet titles include Science and Technology in 18th Century America, Inventions and Inventors, and History of American Agriculture.

INTRODUCTIONS TO THE TOPIC

Buchanan, Robert A. The history of technology. In The New Encyclopaedia Britannica. 15th ed. v. 28. Chicago, Encyclopaedia Britannica, c1986. p. 451-483. AE5.E363 1986

Hall, A. Rupert. Technology. In The Encyclopedia Americana. International ed. v. 26. Danbury, Conn., Grolier, c1986. p. 357-378. AE5.E333 1986

Pursell, Carroll W., Jr. History of technology. In A Guide to the culture of science, technology, and medicine. General editor, Paul T. Durbin. New York, Free Press, 1984. p. 70-120, 670-671. Q158.5.G84 1984

Originally published in 1980; reissued with a bibliographic update in 1984.

SUBJECT HEADINGS used by the Library of Congress, under which books on the history of technology can be located in most card, book, and online catalogs, include the following:

TECHNOLOGY--HISTORY (Highly relevant)

Note: for geographical breakdowns of this topic, it is necessary to search both TECHNOLOGY--geographic area--HISTORY and TECHNOLOGY--HISTORY--geographic area.

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ENGINEERING--HISTORY (Relevant)

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INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY (Relevant)

INDUSTRIAL ARTS--HISTORY (Relevant)

INDUSTRY--HISTORY (Relevant)

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Includes bibliographies.
v. 1. The origins of technological civilization.--v. 2. The first stages of mechanization.--v. 3. The expansion of mechanization, 1725-1860.--
- Derry, Thomas Kingston, and Trevor I. Williams. A short history of technology from the earliest times to A.D. 1900. New York, Oxford University Press, 1961, c1960. 782 p. T15.D4 1961*
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v. 1. Techniques and civilizations, written and edited by Bertrand Gille--v. 2. Techniques and sciences, edited by Bertrand Gille; written by André Fel and others.
- Singer, Charles Joseph, and others, eds. A history of technology. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1954-84. 8 v. T15.S53*
Volumes 6-7 edited by Trevor I. Williams.
Includes bibliographies.
v. 1. From early times to fall of ancient empires.--v. 2. The Mediterranean civilizations and the Middle Ages, c. 700 B.C. to c. 1500 A.D.--v. 3. From the Renaissance to the industrial revolution, c. 1500-c. 1750.--v. 4. The industrial revolution, c. 1750 to c. 1850.--v. 5. The late nineteenth century, c. 1850 to c. 1900.--v. 6-7. The twentieth century, c. 1900 to c. 1950.--v. 8. Consolidated indexes, compiled by Richard Raper.
- Technology in Western civilization. Edited by Melvin Kranzberg and Carroll W. Pursell, Jr. New York, Oxford University Press, 1967. 2 v. T15.T43*
Includes bibliographies.
v. 1. The emergence of modern industrial society, earliest times to 1900.--v. 2. Technology in the twentieth century.

*Available in reference collection, Science Reading Room

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Bibliography: p. 285-298.
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Bibliography: p. 241-255.
- White, Lynn Townsend, Jr. Medieval religion and technology: collected essays. Berkeley, University of California Press, c1978. 360 p.
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Sequel to A short history of technology from the earliest times to A.D. 1900, by T. K. Derry and Trevor I. Williams.
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ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING SERVICES that index relevant journal articles and other literature are listed below. Some suggested terms are given as aids in searching.

America, History and Life (1964-) Z1236.A48
See: Technology

Applied Science & Technology Index (1913-) Z7913.I7*

See: Technology--History

Engineering--History

History

Subdivision History under subject headings of interest

Engineering Index (1884-) Z5851.E62*

See especially volumes through 1957 for entries under Engineering History

General Science Index (1978-) Z7401.G46*

See: Technology--History

History

Subdivision History under subject headings of interest

Physics Abstracts (1898-) Q1.S3* and QCl.P46*

See: History

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature (1900-) AI3.R45

See: Technology--History

Industrial Archeology

Industrial Revolution

Depending on the topic, researchers may need to use more specialized abstracting and indexing services such as those listed below.

Electrical & Electronics Abstracts (1898-) Z5833.E37*

See: History

International Aerospace Abstracts (1961-) TL500.I57*

See: Histories

Metals Abstracts Index (1968-) TN1.M51532*

See: Historical Metallurgy

JOURNALS that often contain articles on the history of technology are

American Heritage of Invention & Technology (uncataloged)The Chronicle of the Early American Industries Association, Inc.

Tl.E2

History and Technology (uncataloged)History of Technology T14.7.H57

Published annually

IA, the Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology T37.I13Industrial Archaeology T37.I5Industrial Archaeology Review T37.I53Isis; an International Review Devoted to the History of Science and Its Cultural Influences Q1.I7

Note: Consult reference librarian for location of abstracting and indexing services in the Science Reading Room

Newcomen Society for the Study of the History of Engineering and
 Technology, London. Transactions T1.N47
Scientific American T1.S5
Society for Industrial Archeology Newsletter T37.S62
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TECHNICAL REPORTS and other types of literature are indexed in the following guides:

Government Reports Announcements & Index (1946-) Z7916.G78*

See: Histories
History

Scientific and Technical Aerospace Reports (1963-) TL500.S35*

See: Histories

SELECTED TECHNICAL REPORTS sold by the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161, include the following:

Barnes, Arthur G. History of Patowmack Canal: Matildaville. A discussion of the Patowmack Company, its canal, and Matildaville, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Great Falls, Virginia. Prepared for National Park Service, Denver, CO. Williamsburg, Va., Southside Historical Sites, Inc., Mar. 31, 1978. 160 p.
PB81-199747**

Cooper, Patricia A. From hand craft to mass production: men, women and work culture in American cigar factories, 1900-1919. College Park, Md., University of Maryland, 1981. 402 p. PB82-265547**
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Dowson, Duncan, and Bernard J. Hamrock. History of ball bearings. Feb. 1981. 84 p. (NASA-TM-81689) N81-18391**

Govan, Gregory G. The tank builders: a history of early Soviet armor research and development. APO NY 09053, U.S. Army Russian Institute, June 1979. 52 p. AD-A098574**

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Cowan, Ruth Schwartz. Less work for mother? American heritage of invention & technology, v. 2, spring 1987: 57-63.

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White, Lynn, Jr. Medieval Europe foresaw planes, cars, submarines. Smithsonian, v. 9, Oct. 1978: 114-123.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

National Museum of American History Branch Library
Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Constitution Ave. between 12th and 14th Sts., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20560
Telephone: (202) 357-2036

Newcomen Society of the United States
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Exton, Pennsylvania 19341
Telephone: (215) 363-6600