



## National History Day Research Guide

**Topic: Taking a Stand for Artistic Freedom: The Defection of Soviet Ballet Dancers to the U.S.**

Contact the Reference Services department for help with your research project:

- Phone us, 720-865-1363,
- Visit us, reference desk on Floor 3 of the [Central Library](#),
- Chat with us online with the [Ask Us!](#) Service,
- Meet with us in person or online to work [one-on-one with a librarian](#).

## Getting Started

Begin your research by brainstorming keywords - the words and phrases you'll use to search for books, articles, websites, government documents, and other resources. These may include names of people and places or historical concepts like eras and movements. A librarian can suggest "subject headings" to find the most relevant resources.

## Example Keywords & Subject Headings

Ballet Dancers  
Defection  
Cold War

[Ballet-Russia-History](#)  
[Ballet-Soviet Union-History](#)  
[Defectors-Soviet Union-Biography](#)  
[Soviet Union-History-1953-1985](#)

## Primary & Secondary Sources

Start your search at [the library catalog](#). You will need to use both [primary](#) and secondary sources for your project. You can often find both in the library catalog and place holds on materials, if needed.

## Books/Print Resources at DPL

Bolshoi Confidential : Secrets Of The Russian Ballet From The Rule Of The Tsars To Today. <http://catalog.denverlibrary.org/view.aspx?cn=1549524>  
Nureyev, His Life. <http://catalog.denverlibrary.org/view.aspx?cn=333409>  
Misha: The Mikhail Baryshnikov story. <http://catalog.denverlibrary.org/view.aspx?cn=189361>

### Database/Online Resources

Library databases are online collections of information, organized for research. Databases contain articles, eBooks, images, maps, primary sources and more. If you don't have a library card, [register online](#) for immediate access to these resources. The following recommended databases are available on our [Research](#) and [Teen Social Studies](#) pages.

**[Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)** Access full-text encyclopedias covering the arts, biography, country studies, history, law, literature, religion, science, social science and more.

Soviet Era Defectors <http://tinyurl.com/zqz9esm>

**[Student Resources in Context](#)** Reference essays, magazine and journal articles, newspaper articles and primary source documents, historical timelines, biographies, and classroom topics.

Dancing to Survive <http://tinyurl.com/zucgkv8>

**[New York Times Historical Backfile](#)** Contains full-text and images in PDF format of the New York Times from 1851 to three years before current year. (Library card required)

Two Principal Dancers of Bolshoi Are Given Political Asylum in U.S. <http://tinyurl.com/jh7jxer>

### Searching beyond Denver Public Library

As a Denver Public Library customer, you can also [borrow materials from other library systems](#). If DPL doesn't have something you need, search Prospector to check other Colorado libraries' catalogs.

Like a bomb going off : Leonid Yakobson and ballet as resistance in Soviet Russia

[http://encore.coalliance.org/iii/encore/record/C\\_\\_Rb33231433\\_\\_Slike%20a%20bomb%20going%20off\\_\\_Orightresult\\_\\_U\\_\\_X6?lang=eng&suite=def](http://encore.coalliance.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb33231433__Slike%20a%20bomb%20going%20off__Orightresult__U__X6?lang=eng&suite=def)

Swans of the Kremlin : ballet and power in Soviet Russia

[http://encore.coalliance.org/iii/encore/search/C\\_\\_Sswans%20of%20the%20kremlin\\_\\_Orightresult\\_\\_U?lang=eng&suite=def](http://encore.coalliance.org/iii/encore/search/C__Sswans%20of%20the%20kremlin__Orightresult__U?lang=eng&suite=def)

Life stories : profiles from The New Yorker

[http://encore.coalliance.org/iii/encore/record/C\\_\\_Rb28115684\\_\\_S%09Life%20stories%20%3A%20profiles%20from%20The%20New%20Yorker%20Lw%3D%3D%20edited%20by%20David%20Remnick\\_\\_Orightresult\\_\\_U\\_\\_X4?lang=eng&suite=def](http://encore.coalliance.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb28115684__S%09Life%20stories%20%3A%20profiles%20from%20The%20New%20Yorker%20Lw%3D%3D%20edited%20by%20David%20Remnick__Orightresult__U__X4?lang=eng&suite=def)

### Internet Sources

Before using information you find on the internet for assignments and research, it is important to establish that the information comes from a reliable and appropriate source. The following websites, from government, academic and nonprofit organizations, have been evaluated for authority, accuracy, content and currency.

Dancing their way to freedom: 4 great Soviet ballet defectors (some primary resources)

[http://rbth.com/arts/2015/08/11/dancing\\_their\\_way\\_to\\_freedom\\_4\\_great\\_soviet\\_ballet\\_defectors\\_48425.html](http://rbth.com/arts/2015/08/11/dancing_their_way_to_freedom_4_great_soviet_ballet_defectors_48425.html)

How Rudolf Nureyev danced to freedom

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/dance-blog/2015/dec/14/rudolf-nureyev-dance-to-freedom-bbc-documentary-film>