

Fondren Library Research Award Essay

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Project Title: George C. Marshall: A Soldier and a Statesman

This assignment in HIST 291: 20th Century American Presidents was a ten-page research paper about the significance of an important figure in American history in the twentieth century. I chose to write about George C. Marshall, who is significant in American history for being the Chief of Staff of the Army and later General of the Army during WWII. After his military career, Marshall then served as Truman's Secretary of State where he is most famous for creating the European Recovery Plan, or Marshall Plan. Lastly, Marshall again served in Truman's Cabinet, this time as Secretary of Defense during the Korean War. Shortly after, he retired to his home in Virginia, and ended his long career in American statesmanship.

In order to begin this research paper, I used Fondren Library resources in order to gather books about Marshall's life and career. On the Fondren Library website, I used the Classic Catalog to search for relevant books to my assignment. On the catalog, I studied the item details under specific books to evaluate whether or not a particular book would be useful to me. For example, I viewed the book's summary/contents, subjects, and contents. The contents were especially useful to me in assessing the book's relevancy to my project because they allowed me to see what the chapters in the book were specifically about, which the book's title and subjects were unable to reveal.

To conclude, in completing this research assignment, I garnered all my information from resources acquired from Fondren Library, specifically the Classic Catalog search tool.