This guide will introduce you to a variety of resources related to Bryan Stevenson’s “Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption.” The WSU Libraries have multiple print copies of the book, with at least one at all three Pullman campus libraries, and several on reserve. For more details, see the Search It ebook record: http://searchit.libraries.wsu.edu/WSU:WSU_everything:CP71226617780001451.

Reference Sources

To find reference resources, go to Search It from the Libraries homepage (libraries.wsu.edu), click on the “advanced search” button, type in a keyword or two that describes your topic, enter (encyclo* OR dictionar*) in the second search box and limit to “in the title,” then click Search.

Resource Examples:

- The social history of crime and punishment in America an encyclopedia (2012) Wilbur R. Miller
  http://searchit.libraries.wsu.edu/WSU:WSU_everything:CP71190177030001451

  http://searchit.libraries.wsu.edu/WSU:WSU_everything:CP71190102450001451

  Holland and Terrell Library Stacks HV8694 .P35 2001
  http://searchit.libraries.wsu.edu/WSU:WSU_everything:CP71118583040001451

Search It

Search It features a single user-friendly interface to search across WSU resources, Summit (a group catalog of resources from 35+ academic libraries across the Pacific Northwest) and WorldCat (a collection of more than 150 million library items). Search It has books, articles, media items and much more. You can explore Search It from the WSU Libraries homepage (libraries.wsu.edu).
Library of Congress Subject Headings

Subject headings will lead you to helpful human-indexed materials related to “Just Mercy.” You can search for these subject headings in Search It (searchit.libraries.wsu.edu) by clicking on “Browse Search,” and selecting “By subject” from the list to browse. Examples are “Women Prisoners” and “Reformatories for women.”

Research Topic Ideas by Chapter

Introduction
Southern Prisoners Defense Committee (Steve Bright)
Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Center
Death row prisoners
Mass incarceration
War on drugs
“three strikes and you’re out”
DNA testing in criminal circumstances
Privatization of prisons

Ch 1 – Mockingbird Players
Alabama Prison Project (Eva Ansley)
Walter McMillian
To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
Monroe County, Alabama
“Plowin’, plantin’, and pickin’”
Interracial sex and marriage
Karen Kelly
“Anti-miscegenation statutes” (Loving v. Virginia)
“Racial integrity” laws
Death of Ronda Morrison
Tom Tate
Alabama Bureau of Investigation (set up meeting of Walter and Ralph)
Ralph Myers

Ch 2 – Stand
Atlanta Legal Aid Society (Charles Bliss)
Attica Prison Riots
Lourida Ruffin
Prisoner-on-prisoner violence
Guard violence
Racial profiling in policing (Stevenson outside his apt incident)
“You’ve got to beat the drum for justice”

Ch 3 – Trials and Tribulation
Bill Hook’s testimony
Holman Correctional Facility
John Evan’s electric chair incident
Excluding African Americans from jury service
*Straduer v. West Virginia, Batson v. Kentucky*

**Ch 4 – The Old Rugged Cross**
Equal Justice Initiative
Judges replace life sentence verdicts with death sentences
Judgeship elections and being “tough on crime”
Atkins v. Virginia – execution of people with mental disabilities
Horace Dunkins’ electric chair incident
Execution of Herbert Richardson (hard childhood, traumatized in Vietnam)

**Ch 5 – Of the Coming of John**
Stevenson’s meeting with Walter’s family
*The Souls of BlackFolk – W.E.B. Du Bois*
Darnell Houston refutes Bill Hooks testimony
Tom Chapman, Monroe County District Attorney

**Ch 6 – Surely Doomed**
Death penalty for juveniles (SC upholds the principle, but no under age 15)
Charlie killed mother’s boyfriend, sexually abused in prison
Jennings family helps Charlie

**Ch 7 – Justice Denied**
John Patterson and George Wallace (former Alabama governors)
Tate paid Bill Hooks
Ralph Myers changes testimony
Victims rights to participate in trials
Victim impact statements
*Booth v. Maryland, Payne v. Tennessee*
Megan’s Law (laws named after victims)
*McCleasey v. Kemp* (race of victim greatest factor in getting death penalty)
Rule 32 Petition

**Ch 8 – All God’s Children**
Plight of children sentenced to “life in prison without parole”
Trina Garnett (fire causes death)
Ian Manuel (shot woman)
Antonio Nunez (attempted murder of police officers)
George Stinney (1944) (put to death for murder of two girls)
Criminologists predict of juvenile “super-predators”

**Ch 9 – I’m Here**
Walter’s new trial
Walter supporters denied access to the courtroom, Mrs. William’s fear of police dog

**Ch 10 – Mitigation**
Mass incarceration, prison overcrowding
Deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill
George Daniel (killed police officer, on death row, mentally ill)
Stevenson strip searched
Avery Jenkins

Ch 11 – I’ll Fly Away
Bomb threats to civil rights offices
Judge Norton denies Walter relief
People sue news outlets to stop civil rights movement, New York Times v. Sullivan says plaintiffs must prove malice
Stevenson on 60 Minutes
ABI findings, Walter freed

Ch 12 – Mother, Mother
Marsha Colby (still birth/murder issue)
The media and “dangerous mothers” stories
Bridget Lee
“bad parenting” “dangerous environment” statues
Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women
Women in prison – family effects
Abuse of women in prisons

Ch 13 – Recovery
Death Penalty Information Center
Circumstantial Evidence (Pete Earley) (detailed account of Walter’s case)
Compensation for the wrongly incarcerated
Prosecutors’ immunity from civil liability
Tate reelected sheriff
DNA evidence (more exonerations than executions in many states by late 1990s)
Federal legal aid to death row inmates
Olof Palme International Human Rights Award to EJI
Prisoner rehabilitation

Ch 14 – Cruel and Unusual
Joe Sullivan (rape of elderly woman, life in prison, 13 yrs. Old)
“Prison-industrial complex”
Evan Miller (kills neighbor, drug related)
Stevenson’s grandfather killed for TV
Psychological/medical evidence that adolescents lack mature judgment, impulse control
8th Amendment
Supreme Court bans death penalty for people with mental disabilities and for kids
Death penalty versus life in prison in terms of cruel and unusual punishment
U.S. Senator Alan Simpson (trouble as a youth)

Ch 15 - Broken
Walter (has trauma induced dementia)
James Cochran and Robert Tarver (plus Walter are three death row inmates featured in documentary)
9/11 and the death penalty
David Nelson (lethal injection method is cruel)
Drugs used for Lethal Injections
Jimmy Dill (disabilities, victim dies after nine months)
Why do we want to kill the broken people?
We are more than the worst things we’ve done
Rosa Parks, Johnnie Carr, Virginia Durr
Prison conditions

**Ch 16 – The Stonecatchers’ Song of Sorrow**
2010 – life imprisonment w/o parole imposed on children convicted in non-homicide cases is cruel and unusual punishment
2011 – ban mandatory life-without-parole sentences imposed on children convicted of homicides
Need ban on housing juveniles with adults
Phillip Shaw
Dante Evans
Anthony Ray Hinton
Racial History Calendar (published by EJI)
*Slavery by Another Name* (Douglas Blackmon)
Angola Prison
Joshua Carter and Robert Caston (ultimately released from Angola after decades)

**EndNotes**
- Contains references to a great number of sources for further research (319-336)

**Articles (Newspaper, Magazine, Journal)**
For article searching, first click on the “Find Journal Articles” link from the Libraries’ homepage ([libraries.wsu.edu](http://libraries.wsu.edu)), next follow the directions below for the article type of interest:

For humanities and social science scholarly journal articles, use “Databases A to Z” to find these 3 databases:
- **Criminal Justice Abstracts** (criminology)
- **NCJRS Database** (criminology)
- **Historical Abstracts** (history)
- **Contemporary Women’s Issues** (women’s studies)
- **Sociological Abstracts** (sociology)
- **PsycINFO** (psychology)

For science scholarly journal articles, use “Databases A to Z” to find these 6 databases:
- **Scifinder Scholar, Web of Science** and **Academic Search Complete** (all sciences)
- **GreenFILE** (environmental issues)
- **Biosis** (biological sciences)
- **PubMed** (human health)

For newspaper articles, use “Databases A to Z” to find these 2 databases:
- **Lexis Nexis Academic**
- **ProQuest Newspapers**

For magazine articles, use “Databases A to Z” to find these 2 databases:
- **Academic Search Complete**
Reader’s Guide Retrospective

* Search It has articles as well as books and other library materials.  
* Use the FindIt!@WSU button to help you locate the full-text articles.

Media

Most media resources (DVD, VHS, CD, records, etc.) are available at Media Materials and Reserves in Holland and Terrell Libraries (Ground Floor).  First, search Search It at http://searchit.libraries.wsu.edu/ by entering your query.  You can then limit your search to media items in the “Type” section on the left side of the page (note that you might need to click on “More options” to see DVDs, CDs, etc.)

Resource Examples:

Quiet rage the Stanford prison study
(Stanford Instructional Television Network) (2004) (DVD 948)
http://searchit.libraries.wsu.edu/WSU:WSU_everything:CP71106173960001451

White like me
(Media Education Foundation) (2013) (DVD 4331)
http://searchit.libraries.wsu.edu/WSU:WSU_everything:CP71188529650001451

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Available in alternative format upon request.