

Primary Sources

A Guide To Locating Primary Source Material

What Is A Primary Source?

- An original record created at the time an historical event occurred. No one has interpreted the facts, added or omitted information. Primary sources include original documents such as the U.S. Constitution, legal documents such as census or marriage records, letters, diaries, interviews and oral accounts, substantial quotations (at least a paragraph, not just one sentence), photographs, paintings and statues. Objects used in the past, such as tools, dishes and clothing are also primary sources.

ELECTRONIC PRIMARY SOURCES

The following three electronic resources may assist you in your search—both are accessible from home and within the library.

- **Ebscohost's** Primary Source Documents
Select "Masterfile Premier." Click on "Advanced Search." Under "Publication Type" (drop down menu), select "Primary Source Document."
- **Daily Life Online**
Scroll to bottom right of front page, click on "Primary Documents" under "In the Collection."
- **Facts.Com**
Under "Special Features" on the right side of the page, select "Historic Documents." You'll then have a choice of either "Primary Source Documents Arranged By Title" or "By Year."

Internet Sites

- **100 MILESTONE DOCUMENTS**
Compiled by the National Archives and Records Administration, and drawn primarily from its nationwide holdings. The documents chronicle United States history from 1776 to 1965.
- **AD ACCESS**
A collection of images from over 7,000 advertisements printed in U.S. and Canadian newspapers and magazines from 1911 through 1955. Subject areas include: radio, television, transportation, and World War II.
- **AMERICAN MEMORY Historical Collections** (Library of Congress)
A gateway to the Library of Congress's vast resources of digitized American historical materials. Comprising more than 9 million items that document U.S. history and culture, it is organized into more than 100 thematic collections based on their original format, their subject matter, or who first created, assembled, or donated them to the Library. A map collection is included, (the maps are printable), as well as prints, drawings, manuscripts, rare books, sound recordings, and moving pictures.
- **AVALON PROJECT AT YALE LAW SCHOOL: DOCUMENTS IN LAW, HISTORY AND DIPLOMACY**
Documents range from 18th to 21st century.
- **BEEN HERE SO LONG**
Numerous slave narratives compiled during the Great Depression by writers who worked for the Federal Writers Project (FWP was part of the New Deal's Works Progress Administration).
- **CIVIL WAR WOMEN: PRIMARY SOURCES ON THE INTERNET**
From Duke University's Special Collections Library. Includes full-text diaries, letters, photos and prints.
- **THE CRISIS OF THE UNION**
An electronic archive of documents about the causes, conduct, and consequences of the US Civil War.
- **DIGITAL LIBRARY ON AMERICAN SLAVERY**
The Digital Library on American Slavery, a cooperative effort of the University Libraries and History Department at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, provides detailed personal information about slaves, slaveholders, and free people of color. Information gleaned

from the petitions includes where, when, and by whom slaves were owned, and where, when, and how free people of color lived. The documents collected by the Project span from the end of the American Revolution to the end of the Civil War and represent the fifteen slaveholding states and the District of Columbia. A rich and valuable source based on the variety of issues ("causes") brought to the courts by the petitioners, raised by the defendants in their answers to suits against them, and issues found in supporting related documents such as slave inventories, witnesses' testimonies, and bills of slave sale.

- **EURODOCS**
Primary historical documents from Western Europe.
- **HISTORY MATTERS**
First-person primary documents and guides to analyzing historical evidence for high school and college students as well as teachers of American history.
- **MAKING OF AMERICA**
A digital library of primary sources in American social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction (19th century). This collection has approximately 8500 books and 50,000 journal articles. The subject focus is education, psychology, American history, sociology, religion, science and technology.
- **NATIONAL RECORDS and ARCHIVES ADMINISTRATION**
This page contains reproducible copies of primary documents from the holdings of the National Archives of the United States. These sources also contain teaching activity information. One major place to click is "American Historical Documents" either on the right or on the left under "Explore & Interact."
- **NEW DEAL NETWORK**
Includes a photo gallery of over 5000 images from the Great Depression Era and over 900 documents from the New Deal Era (1928-1955) consisting of speeches, advertisements, letters, articles and administrative papers. There is also information on how to cite sources from this website.
- **NJ DIGITAL COLLECTIONS**
Created by the New Jersey State Library, contains items like "The Governors of New Jersey 1664-1974: Biographical Essays" and "The Origin of New Jersey Place Names."
- **NJ DIGITAL HIGHWAY**
Developed by cultural heritage organizations throughout New Jersey, through a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Organizations involved are the Rutgers University Libraries, the New Jersey State Library, the NJ Division of Archives and Record Management, the New Jersey Historical Society and the American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark.
- **OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE WAR OF THE REBELLION**
This site contains selected after action reports of the Commanders in the field for major battles of the American Civil War and other selected events.
- **U.S. HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS ARCHIVE**
Primary source documents from American history starting with Columbus and going through to the Civil Rights Act of 1991.
- **USING PRIMARY SOURCES ON THE WEB**
From the American Library Association, Reference and User Services Association, History Section. It includes information on what are primary sources, how to find, and how to evaluate them.
- **THE VIETNAM CENTER AND ARCHIVE**
Includes documents, photographs, slides, negatives, oral histories, artifacts, moving images, sound recordings, maps, and collection finding aids.
- **WORLD WAR I DOCUMENT ARCHIVE**
This archive of primary documents from World War One has been assembled by volunteers of the World War I Military History List (WWI-L). International in focus, the archive intends to present in one location primary documents concerning the Great War.
- **WORLD WAR II: A DIGITAL LIBRARY**
Historic government publications from WWII, provided by Southern Methodist University.

MAGAZINES

Articles from these sources only apply if they are first-hand accounts; written by an eyewitness or participant in an event or time period.

- **American Heritage Magazine**
Ceased publication in summer 2007, but began again in winter 2008. Some articles are available online in the archives. The Hunterdon County Library holdings date back to 1949. In more current issues of this magazine, there is a section called "My Brush With History." There is a print index in the Reference Room at the Rt. 12 library covering December 1954 to December 1994. After that date, Ebscohost (9-1-90 to current Full Txt) or Proquest (1996-2005 Full Txt) can be used.
- **American Historical Review**
Searchable online. The Hunterdon County Library holdings only include October 1963 through December 1990. Use Reader's Guide To Periodical Literature index for 1963 to 1988. Online access includes Ebscohost (2-1-84 to current Full Txt, with 12 month delay) or Proquest (1988-1997 Full Txt).
- **American History**
Hunterdon County Library Headquarters holdings are from April 1966 to current. Use the Reader's Guide To Periodical Literature index for 1966 to 1988. After that date, use Ebscohost (8-1-94 to current Full Txt) or Proquest (Mar/Apr 1997-current Full Txt).

SEARCHING THE ONLINE CATALOG FOR PRIMARY SOURCES

Using keyword, type in: "sources." You can also narrow down this list of over 200 items by typing in the terms for your topic, such as "civil war" and the word "sources."

Using keyword, type in: "personal narratives." Over 700 listings—remember this is keyword so it may pick up unrelated items, but most will be applicable. You can also narrow down this list by typing in the terms for your topic, such as "world war" and the phrase "personal narratives."

A SELECTION OF TITLES BY TOPIC

This is only a representative list, by no means complete; you can always see if there are additional titles for a topic by clicking on other subject headings below.

The topics below are listed by popular name, alphabetically. In parentheses is the actual subject heading (devised by the Library of Congress) as it appears on our online catalog.

Key to abbreviations:

- B= biography
- J= juvenile nonfiction
- R= reference

CIVIL RIGHTS	(Civil Rights - Sources)	(African Americans - Civil Rights)
323.092	Pinckney	Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters
323.4	no author	Ripples of Hope: Great American Civil Rights Speeches
323.4	Boyd	We Shall Overcome
323.4	Hampton	Voices of Freedom: An Oral History of the Civil Rights Movement From the 1950's Through the 1980's.
323.4	King	A Call To Conscience: the Landmark Speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
345.7619	Sorenson	The Scottsboro Boys Trial : A Primary Source Account
CIVIL WAR	(United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Sources)	(United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Personal Narratives)
973.5	Stanley	The Crisis of the Union, 1815-1865
R973.7	Hillstrom	American Civil War: Primary Sources
973.7	McKissack	Days of Jubilee: the End of Slavery in the United States
J973.715	Murphy	The Boy's War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War
973.7349	Wheeler	Witness To Gettysburg (quotations only; interwoven throughout author's narrative)
973.74	Wiley	The Common Soldier of the Civil War
973.7449	Siegel	Beneath the Starry Flag: New Jersey's Civil War Experience
973.78	Straubing	Civil War Eyewitness Reports
973.782	Chesnut	Mary Chesnut's Civil War
COLD WAR	(United States - Foreign Relations - 1945-1989)	(United States - Politics and Government - 1945-1989)
		(World Politics - 20th Century) (Cold War - Social Aspects)
		(Cold War - History - Sources)
323.443	Magee	Freedom of Expression
909.825	no author	The Cold War (by Greenhaven Press)
909.825	no author	The Cold War (Opposing Viewpoints series)
909.825	Hillstrom	The Cold War
973.92	Stanley	America and the Cold War (1949-1960)

COLONIAL PERIOD (United States - History - Colonial Period, ca.1600-1775 - Sources)

R973	no author	Documents Illustrative of the Formation of the Union of the American States
973.2	no author	Black Soldiers in the Colonial Militia: Documents From 1639 To 1780
973.2	Andrews	Narratives of the Insurrections, 1675-1690
R973.2	Copeland	Debating the Issues in Colonial Newspapers: Primary Documents on Events of the Period
973.2	Jaycox	The Colonial Era: An Eyewitness History
R973.2	Kavenagh	Foundations of Colonial America: A Documentary History Vol. 1-3
973.2	Miller	Growing Up In A New World, 1607-1775 (quotations only; interwoven throughout author's narrative)
974	Myers	Narratives of Early Pennsylvania, West New Jersey, and Delaware: 1630-1707
974.902	Orr	A Primary Source History of the Colony of New Jersey

CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS (Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962)

973.922	no author	The Kennedy Tapes: Inside the White House During the Cuban Missile Crisis
973.922	no author	The Secret Cuban Missile Crisis Documents

FRONTIER (Frontier and Pioneer Life)

R326	Govenar	African American Frontiers: Slave Narratives and Oral Histories
371.1	Kaufman	Women Teachers On the Frontier
974.16	Ulrich	A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based On Her Diary, 1785-1812
978.02	no author	Pioneers (by Greenhaven Press)
979.503	Olson	The Oregon Trail: A Primary Source History of the American West

GENERAL HISTORY

305.8	no author	Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America: Primary Documents
305.896	Aptheker	A Documentary History of the Negro People In the United States
769.5	United	Broadsides & Posters From the National Archives
R909	Wynn Jones	A Newspaper History of the World
909.824	no author	1940-1960: the Twentieth Century
973	no author	A Documentary History of the United States
973	no author	Mine Eyes Have Seen: A First Person History of the Events That Shaped America
R973	Hart	America's History Told By Contemporaries
J973	Wilson	The Book of Great American Documents
R973.03	no author	The Annals of America
973.08	Hofstadter	Great Issues In American History
973.91	no author	Lifetimes: the Great War to the Stock Market Crash
973.92	Stanley	America In Today's World (1969-2004)

HOLOCAUST (Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) - Personal Narratives) (Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) - country name - Personal Narratives)

J940.5315	Reiss	The Upstairs Room
940.5315	Wiesel	Night
J940.5318	no author	We Are Witnesses: Five Diaries of Teenagers Who Died In the Holocaust
J940.5318	Adler	We Remember the Holocaust
940.5318	Berg	The Diary of Mary Berg: Growing Up in the Warsaw Ghetto
J940.5318	Greenfield	The Hidden Children
940.5318	Hill	The Holocaust
940.5318	Hillman	I Will Plant You A Lilac Tree: A Memoir of A Schindler's List Survivor
940.5318	Lee	Anne Frank and the Children of the Holocaust
940.5318	Taylor	The Secret of Priest's Grotto: A Holocaust Survival Story

IMMIGRANTS (Immigrants - Sources)

325.109	Morrison	American Mosaic: the Immigrant Experience In the Words of Those Who Lived It
R929.3	Coldham	The Complete Book of Emigrants Vol. 1-3
940.5318	Jackson	Hello, America
973.8	no author	The Gilded Age: A History In Documents
979.403	O'Donnell	The Gold Rush: A Primary Source History of the Search For Gold In California

MIDDLE AGES (Middle Ages - History - Sources)

274.02	no author	Christianity and Paganism, 350-750 : the Conversion of Western Europe
321.6	Schiel	Monarchy : a primary source analysis
R940.1	Knight	Middle Ages: Primary Sources
940.1	Lewis	The High Middle Ages, 814-1300
942.04	Gies	A medieval family : the Pastons of fifteenth-century England

NEW JERSEY HISTORY (New Jersey - History - Colonial Period, ca. 1600-1775 - Sources) etc. (New Jersey - History - Revolution, 1775-1783 - Sources) (New Jersey - History - Sources)

R351.7	New Jersey	Budget In Brief
R929.3	Wilson	Notices From New Jersey Newspapers, 1781-1790
974.9	no author	Words That Make New Jersey History : A Primary Source Reader
974.9	Gerlach	New Jersey in the American Revolution, 1763-1783: A Documentary History
R974.9	Vexler	Chronology and Documentary Handbook of the State of New Jersey

PRESIDENTS (Presidents - United States - History - Sources)

B-Lincoln	Lincoln	Lincoln In The Times : the Life of Abraham Lincoln, As Originally Reported In the New York Times
353	Kennedy	Public Papers of the Presidents
R353.03	no author	The State of the Union Messages of the Presidents, 1790-1966
973	Morris	Great Presidential Decisions: State Papers That Have Changed the Course of History
R973.099	no author	Presidential Documents: the Speeches, Proclamations, and Policies That Have Shaped the Nation From Washington to Clinton
973.3	Baker	Itinerary of General Washington From June 15, 1775, To December 23, 1783

RECONSTRUCTION (Reconstruction - Sources)

917.58	Myers	The Children of Pride: A True Story of Georgia and the Civil War
J973.8	no author	One Nation Again: A Sourcebook On the Civil War
973.8	no author	Reconstruction (by Greenhaven Press)
973.8	Dickerson	The Reconstruction Era: Primary Documents On Events From 1865 To 1877
973.8	Smith	Black Voices From Reconstruction, 1865-1877
973.8	Sterling	The Trouble They Seen: Black People Tell the Story of Reconstruction

REVOLUTIONARY WAR (United States - History - Revolution, 1775-1783 - Personal Narratives) (United States - History - Revolution, 1775-1783 - Sources)

305.4	No author	Women's Letters : America From the Revolutionary War to the Present
R973.3	no author	American Revolution: Primary Sources
973.3	Beller	Yankee Doodle and the Redcoats : Soldiering in the Revolutionary War
973.3	Burg	The American Revolution : An Eyewitness History
973.3	Commager	The Spirit of 'Seventy-six: The Story of the American Revolution As Told By Participants Vol. 1 & 2
973.3	Humphrey	The Revolutionary Era : Primary Documents On Events From 1776 to 1800
973.3	Meltzer	The American Revolutionaries: A History In Their Own Words, 1750-1800
973.3	Morison	Sources and Documents Illustrating the American Revolution, 1764-1788, and the Formation of the Federal Constitution

SIXTIES (United States - History - 1961-1969 - Sources)

B-Stone	Stone	Prime Green : Remembering the Nineteen Sixties
973.92	no author	The Times Were A Changin' : the Sixties Reader
973.92	Brokaw	Boom! : Voices of the Sixties : Personal Reflections of the '60s and Today
973.92	Haskins	The 60's Reader
973.92	Maga	The 1960s
973.923	no author	The 1960s: Opposing Viewpoints
973.923	Flamm	Debating the 1960s : Liberal, Conservative, and Radical Perspectives

SLAVERY (Slavery - History - Sources) (African Americans - History - 1863-1877 - Sources)

306.362	King	Stolen Childhood: Slave Youth In Nineteenth-Century America
326	no author	Free At Last: A Documentary History of Slavery, Freedom and the Civil War
J326	Fradin	Bound For the North Star: True Stories of Fugitive Slaves
326	Blassingame	Slave Testimony: Two Centuries of Letters, Speeches, Interviews, and Auto-biographies
J326	Buell	Slavery in America : A Primary Source History of the Intolerable Practice of Slavery
R326	Knight	Slavery Throughout History: Primary Sources

VIETNAM (Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975 - Personal Narratives) (Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975 - Prisoners and Prisons)

959.704	Truong	A Vietnam Memoir
J959.7043	Denenberg	Voices From Vietnam
959.7043	Hess	Then the Americans Came: Voices From Vietnam
959.7043	Johnson	Captive Warriors: A Vietnam POW's Story
959.7043	Johnson	Night Owl Fighter Pilot
959.7043	Marshall	In the Combat Zone: An Oral History of American Women In Vietnam, 1966-1975
959.7043	Santoli	Everything We Had: An Oral History of the Vietnam War
959.7043	Simons	I Refuse: Memories of A Vietnam War Objector

WORLD WAR I (World War, 1914-1918 - Personal Narratives)

B-Marshall	Marshall	Memoirs of My Service In the World War, 1917-1918
940.3	Brittain	Testament of Youth: An Autobiographical Study of the Years 1900-1925
940.3	Kirchberger	The First World War: An Eyewitness History
940.4	Ettinger	A Doughboy With the Fighting 69 th : A Remembrance of World War I
940.412	Harris	Duffy's War: Fr. Francis Duffy, Wild Bill Donovan, and the Irish Fighting 69 th in WWI
J940.4817	Schomp	World War I

WORLD WAR II (World War, 1939-1945 - Personal Narratives) (World War, 1939-1945 - Sources)

940.5	Pyle	Brave Men
R940.53	Bigelow	World War II: Primary Sources
J940.5316	Marx	Echoes of World War II
940.5449	Cubbins	The War of the Cottontails: Memoirs of A WWII Bomber Pilot
940.547	Tateishi	And Justice For All: An Oral History of the Japanese American Detention Camps
973.917	Stanley	The Great Depression and World War II (1929-1949)



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