

Guide to Locating Primary Sources



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A primary source is one that is contemporary to the events you are studying. Examples include letters, diaries, photographs, speeches, and maps. Articles published in newspapers written at the same time as the events you are researching can be used as primary sources.

Finding primary sources in books

Use the GIL Catalog (gil.gpc.edu) to locate primary sources by using keywords such as documents, sources, letters, and correspondence combined with your subject. For example, Abraham Lincoln and letters

From the main GALILEO page, click on Databases A-Z and then the appropriate letter

Finding primary sources in GALILEO databases (www.galileo.usg.edu)

Annals of American History—Primary documents covering the time period of 1493—present. Can be searched by date, author, topic, or keyword. Also available in book format (E173.A793)

Ancient and Medieval History Online—Documents important to ancient and medieval history. Can be searched by document type, topic, or civilization

Digital Library of Georgia—Browse by media type, time period, location or topic

Modern World History Online—Documents important to the modern period of world history

Oxford African American Study Center— focus on the lives and events which have shaped African American and African history and culture

Atlanta Constitution (1868 - 1945 : ProQuest Historical Newspapers) -Full-text and full-image articles from the Atlanta Constitution from 1868-1942

New York Times (1851 - 2007 : ProQuest Historical Newspapers) -Full-text and full-image articles from the New York Times from 1851– 2005

Two Websites for Primary Documents:

Avalon Project (World History) - <http://avalon.law.yale.edu>

American Memory (American History) - <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem>

For more information, see our Primary Sources in History research guide:

<http://guides.gpc.edu/primary>