

Web-Based Primary Source Material

(Please note: If you have any comments about this document or would like to recommend a site to add to this list please feel free to contact Dee Davis at: ddavis@cr-cath.pvt.k12.ia.us)

Look at the following 5 examples and decide whether each is a primary, secondary or tertiary source when it comes to research and/or a relevant study of people or events:

1. World War I News Reel
2. African-American Slave Narrative
3. Wikipedia
4. Congressional Record
5. M. L. King's "I Have a Dream..." Speech

Why is the integration of primary source material so important in our curriculum? Primary source material is what makes history, science, literature, and other curriculum areas, as well as people involved in important events, part of our students' reality. The recent research in the field of brain-based learning tells us that children who can make true connections to their studies are the ones who are going to retain the importance of that information and be able to apply that information in a real-life situation. The use of primary source material is essential to making those real connections.

Columbus sailed to the New World in 1492. Yipee! What Columbus really accomplished comes to life as you read his journals of the voyage. The dropping of the Atomic Bomb ended World War II in 1945. Okay, but reading the diaries, journals and letters of the time describe the

uncertainty of the scientists about the use of this new weapon, and the agony that President Truman experienced before he was able to give the order for the Bomb to be used.

Within any historical context there are 3 kinds of sources that people use to get information about a time period, event, political movement, etc. A **PRIMARY SOURCE** is an actual eyewitness account of events that have taken place. A primary source is also the earliest form of a telling of an event. Examples: Diaries, letters, court records, original pamphlets, songs, photos, etc. A primary source also contains raw data like census information. A **SECONDARY SOURCE** is derived from original sources and adds some interpretation. Example: A documentary like Ken Burns' "Civil War". A **TERTIARY SOURCE** compiles secondary sources and is heavily interpreted. Example: A textbook or encyclopedia.

It can often be difficult to discern a primary source from a secondary source, especially with the advent of 21st century technology. Example: Does a story, by a reporter on CNN.com, of a battle that is witnessed by that reporter become a primary or secondary source?

The World Wide Web is a beautiful educational tool. It is a largely untapped reservoir of primary source material sites that you can not find anywhere else and can be "searched", unlike a display in a museum or archive. It has given repositories a way to display all of their holdings, not just

the small percentage that normal space restrictions allow. Web-based information from accurate, relevant sites can make problem/project-based learning, as well as, “Web Quests” a great addition to your teaching.

A good introduction in how to effectively use primary sources with K-12 students is found at “The Learning Page” done by the Library of Congress:

<http://learning.loc.gov/learn> Also, a good site on how to use primary source documents on the Web is found at: <http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/History/RUSA>

To see some sample lessons using primary source material go to the American Memory Project sponsored by the Library of Congress at

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/index.html>

These lessons are done by school teachers who go to annual summer institutes sponsored by the LOC in Washington, D.C.

The sites listed below are just the tip of the Primary Source Material iceberg. Hopefully, this list will get you excited enough to make primary source material-based lessons part of your teaching.

Iowa Online Databases

Access address: <http://www.iowaonline.org>

- World Book Online
- EBSCO
- AP Multimedia Archives
- SIRS Researcher

- DE Streaming

Educational Search Engines

- Librarian's Index to the Internet: <http://www.ii.org>
- Kidsclick: <http://www.kidsclick.org>

General Sites Containing Primary Source Material

- PBS at <http://www.pbs.org>
- History Channel at <http://www.historychannel.com>
- National Geographic at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com>
- Museums around the World at: <http://icom.museum/vlmp/world.html>
- Thinkfinity-Originally the Marco Polo site this is filled with wonderful resources for teachers at: <http://www.thinkfinity.org>
- Museums in the United States at: <http://www.museumca.org/usa>
- 3400 Newspapers Online at: <http://www.onlinenewspapers.com>
- Primary Source Links at: <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/pages/listdocumentationpa.html>

Advertising/Business

- Ad*Access-A huge database of advertisements from the U.S. and Canada from 1911-1955. <http://sciptorium.lib.duke.edu/adaccess>

Maps

- Antiquarian Maps at Reed College-Maps listed by century.
<http://web.reed.edu/resources/library/maps>
- Castenada Library May Collection-Chock full of historical maps. <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/index.html>
- Google Earth at: <http://earth.google.com>

U. S. Government/Historical Primary Source Documents

- Avalon Project at the Yale Law School-Text of documents arranged by time categories.
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/avalon.htm>
- Carrie Electronic Library-AMDOC's site, world constitutions, UN Documents and more.
<http://vlib.iue.it/carrie>
- Freedom of Information Act documents released by CIA.
<http://www.foia.ucia.gov>
- FBI Freedom of Information Act-Documents most requested from the FBI at: <http://foia.fbi.gov>
- Images of American Political History at:
http://teachpol.tcnj.edu/amer_pol_hist/
- Impeachment Trial of Andrew Johnson at:
<http://www.impeach-andrewjohnson.com>
- Impeachment of Bill Clinton at:
<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/clintonhome.html>
- CIA World Fact Book at:
<http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>
- JFK's Executive Orders on the Web at:
<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/jfkeo.html>
- Lewis and Clark Expedition diaries, etc., at:
<http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/archive>
- APB news-Listen to police scanners from around the country at: <http://www.police-scanner.info/live-police-scanners.htm>

- National Archives lesson plans-A great place to get students involved in their national heritage at:
<http://www.archives.gov/educaton/index.html>
- National Archives at: <http://www.archives.gov>
- POTUS-A look at our presidents and the legacies they left our nation at: <http://www.ipl.org/div/potus>
- Presidential Campaign Memorabilia at:
<http://library.duke.edu/americavotes>
- Spy Letters of the American Revolution at:
<http://www.si.umich.edu/SPIES>
- Truman Presidential Library-Look at the papers that tell the story of the dropping of the Atomic Bomb in 1945 at:
<http://www.trumanlibrary.org>
- Union Pacific Railroad History at:
<http://www.uprr.com/aboutup/history>
- World Constitutions-Just pick a country and read their constitution at: <http://confinder.richmond.edu>

Food

- Food timeline at: <http://www.foodtimeline.org>
- Historical and Ethnic food at:
<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~mjw/recipes/ethnic/historical>

Black American/Native American History

- History of Jim Crow at: <http://www.jimcrowhistory.org>
- Slave Narratives at:
<http://roads.virginia.edu/~hyper/wpa/wpahome.html>
- University of Virginia Modern English Section-Texts relating to African American and Native American History at:
<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/eng-on.html>
- National Museum of the American Indian-Part of the Smithsonian Institute the artifacts are amazing at:
<http://www.nmai.si.edu>

Catholic Primary Source Material

- Vatican at: <http://www.vatican.va>
- Vatican Library at:
http://bav.vatican.va/en/r_home_bav/home_bav.shtml
- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at:
<http://www.usccb.org>

Historical Trials

- Famous Trials at:
<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/ftrials.htm>
- Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and other Holocaust Documents at:
<http://fcit.usf.edu/holocaust/RESOURCE/DOCUMENT/document.htm#Doc.Jac>
- Salem Witchcraft Trials at:
<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/salem/home.html> AND
<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/trials/salem/salem.htm>

History outside the United States

- Canada Speaks-A great archival site for Canadian politics and history. <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/canspeak>
- Cariboo Gold Rush-An eyewitness account of a Gold Rush in Canada.
<http://cariboogoldrush.entirety.ca/site/en/index.php2area=primary>
- Eyewitness to History-A terrific site to get eyewitness accounts of events from across time and the world at:
<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com>
- Images of Australia at:
<http://www.nla.gov.au/history/frameset-housing.html>
- Christopher Columbus Journals at:
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sources/columbus1.html>

- Internet Medieval Sourcebook at:
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html>
- British Library Collection at: <http://www.bl.uk>
- Medieval Manuscripts-Search manuscripts by subject like religion, etc. at: <http://www.kb.nl/kb/manuscripts/index.html>
- Plague Narratives-A look at the devastation of the plague by eyewitnesses at:
<http://www3.iath.virginia.edu/osheim/intro.html>
- World History Primary Source Material at:
<http://www.historycentral.com>
- World Constitutions at:
<http://www.constitution.org/cons/natlcon.htm>

Historical Sites in America

- Colonial Williamsburg at: <http://www.history.org>
- Mayflower Web Site at: <http://www.mayflowerhistory.com>

Photography/Pictures

- Daguerreotypes of Southworth & Hawes at:
<http://www.photographymuseum.com/sandh1.html>

Radio and Television

- Old Time Radio-Hear old radio shows and even download them to an MP3 player at: <http://www.otr.com/index.shtml>
- Museum of Broadcast Communication at:
<http://www.museum.tv>
- Vincent Voice Library-A great place to hear historical voice recordings. This is the archive with the only known recording of the voice of President Harding at:
<http://www.lib.msu.edu/vincent>

Sciences

- NASA-The single biggest presence on the Web. A plethora of stats, pictures, virtual tours, etc. at: <http://www.nasa.gov>

- Jet Propulsion Laboratory at: <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov>
- Franklin Institute in Philadelphia at: <http://www.fi.edu>
- Mutter Museum in Philadelphia-This is a museum of medically extreme specimens connected with the College of Physicians in Philadelphia at:
<http://www.collphil.org/mutter.asp>
- NOAA Photo Collection-Thousands of images that are excellent for lessons on global warming and much more at:
<http://www.photolib.noaa.gov>
- San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 at:
<http://www.sfmuseum.org/1906/06.htm>
- 9(8) Planets Tour at: <http://www.nineplanets.org>
- Your Sky-Interactive planetarium at:
<http://www.fourmilab.ch/yoursky>

Library of Congress/Smithsonian Institute

- American Memory Project-The quintessential primary source material site that seems to cover everything. The LOC has made a huge effort to digitize all of their holdings so that the American people can access them at: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse>
- The Smithsonian Institute at: <http://www.si.edu>

Literature/Authors/Speeches

- Charles Dickens speeches and letters at:
http://www.dickens-literature.com/speeches_Literary_and_Social10.html
- Douglass Archives of American Speech at:
<http://douglassarchives.org>
- American Rhetoric at:
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com>
- Jack London Collection at: <http://london.sonoma.edu>

- Tower of London Speeches-Read some of the speeches that the unfortunate people who were beheaded gave before they were executed at:
http://www.camelotintl.com/tower_site/speeches/index.html

College Collections Covering Several Areas

- Duke University Special Collections Library-These collections cover areas from business to personal letters at:
<http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/digitized/index.html>
- Special Collections and Archives at:
<http://www.lib.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Primary.Sources.html>

Music/Art

- English Folk Music at:
<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/martin.nail/Folkmus.htm>
- Folk Songs of America-Most of the folk songs that you will hear were taken from wax cylinders at:
<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/events/BotkinArchives/2006PDFandVideo/MattBartonFlyer2.pdf>

War History

- Holocaust Museum in New York at:
<http://www.ushmm.org>
- Shoah Project at: <http://www.shoaheducation.com>
- Letters from an Iowa Soldier in the Civil War at:
<http://www.civilwarletters.com/home.html>

- Life of Private Jefferson Moses (Civil War) at:
<http://www.ioweb.com/civilwar>
- Museum of Tolerance/Simon Wiesenthal Center at:
<http://motic.wiesenthal.com>
- World War I Primary Source Documents at:
<http://users.erols.com/bmaloney/WWI> AND
http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Main_Page

Virtual Tours

- Virtual Field Trips at:
<http://www.uen.org/utahlink/tours>
- Tramline at: <http://www.field-guides.com>
- Educational Field Trips at:
<http://www.internet4classrooms.com/vft.htm>
- Virtual Tours at:
<http://www.theteachersguide.com/virtualtours.html>
- Whitehouse tour for kids at:
<http://www.whitehousekids.gov>

Web Cams

- Monterey Bay Aquarium critter cams at:
http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/efc/cam_menus.asp
- National Zoo in Washington, D.C. at
<http://nationalzoo.si.edu>
- Leonard's World-Web cams that are kid friendly from around the world arranged by subjects at:
<http://www.leonardsworlds.com/camera.html>